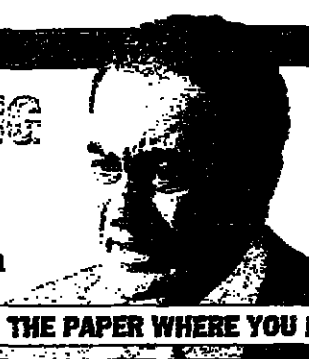




DIANA'S LONGING FOR LOVE

Andrew Morton on the Princess's search for a man to cherish her
PAGE 17



FINAL HOURS IN THE MAJOR BUNKER

THE PAPER WHERE YOU READ THE BIG STORIES FIRST



RAYMOND SNODDY ON MEDIA

There's life in the local paper yet
PAGE 22

Blair has vision of 'the giving age'

aim is to make Britain beacon for the world

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

BLAIR yesterday on the people to muster talents and compassion to make Britain the best in the world.

At the first conference by a Labour Prime Minister for 19 years, Mr Blair set out his vision of a country in which we were proud and where they never went hungry, where people did not have to skimp to survive or sell homes to receive care.

He also announced a government initiative to tackle the crisis in life.

He was ushering in what he called a "giving age", the Minister warned the nation and his party that his

though help would go to the poorest. Mr Blair resisted the temptation to bask in the glow of what was effectively a coronation after his landslide election victory, and emotional passages that would, according to his aides, have brought the conference to tears were abandoned.

The response was warm rather than ecstatic, but he was said afterwards to have believed he was right to avoid triumphalism. However, in offering a new creed which he called "enlightened patriotism", Mr Blair was attempting to inspire. In an echo of Kennedy, he said: "Believe in us as much as we believe in you. Give as much to our country as I, all of us, intend to give. Give your all. Make this the giving age."

His speech contained a series of announcements designed to prove that the Government was fast fulfilling its election pledges. Much, if not all, of the extra funding raised by asking some students to pay part of their university tuition fees would be "ring-fenced" and used to increase student numbers by 500,000 by 2002. There would be a £700 million boost for school fabric repairs, taking the total available during this Parliament to £2 billion. Computers would be installed in every school within five years.

There would be up to ten specially funded "health action zones" to experiment with new ideas in the delivery of healthcare. And he promised to combat organised crime by giving courts extra powers to seize drug money.

Mr Blair avoided mentioning Diana, Princess of Wales, believing it to be inappropriate, but his speech was peppered with references to the new compassionate spirit abroad in Britain, and to a "quiet revolution" taking place. He sensed "confidence returning to the British



Tony Blair is joined by his wife, Cherie, as the conference applauds his speech. Aides said emotional passages were cut to avoid the temptation of triumphalism.

people, compassion to the British soul, unity to the British nation". His ambition was a compassionate society, but it was "compassion with a hard edge because a strong society could not be built on soft choices".

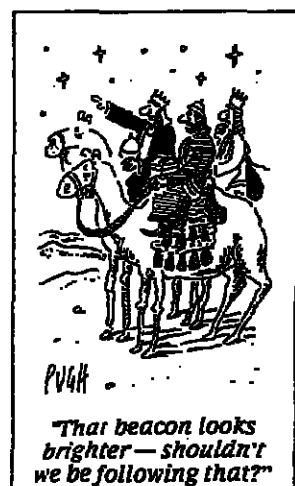
The size of the majority imposed special responsibilities on Labour to be a Government of high ideas and hard choices — "not popular for one time but remembered for all time. Not just a better Government than the Tories but one of the great radical reforming governments of our history."

Every area of government policy would be scrutinised to see how it affected family life; a new ministerial group was being set up to look at ways of establishing the family. With nearly 100,000 teenage pregnancies, children growing up without role models, more crime and more unhappiness this was a "modern crisis" that must be tackled.

He also lectured his party, telling it that it must go on changing in Government as it had in Opposition. "The moment we stop that is the moment we will stop being in government," he said. May 1 was the beginning, not the end, and there must be no cockiness about the Tories even now, he warned the conference. "They're not dead — just sleeping. Let their fate serve rather as a warning to us. What the people give, the people can take away. We are the servants. They are the masters now."

His overall aim was to make Britain the model 21st-century nation. That meant "drawing deep into the richness of the British character, creative, compassionate, outward looking."

By combining Britain's talents with its compassion it could become the best place to live, the best place to bring up children, the best place to lead a fulfilled life, the best place to



"That beacon looks brighter — shouldn't we be following that?"

grow old. "I believe in Britain," he said. "I believe in the British people... the chains of mediocrity have broken, the tired days are behind us, we are free to excel once more. We are free to become that beacon to the world."

Overdose of redemption

CONFERENCE SKETCH

By Matthew Parris

HE HAS even renamed the country. "There is a place for all the people in New Britain!" he cried.

Old Britain is used to political texts which are socialist, capitalist, traditionalist or even anarchist. But yesterday we heard a speech which can only be called salvational. The Prime Minister wrapped himself not so much in the Union Jack as in the altar cloth of national redemption.

The audience here at Brighton were by turns bewitched and bemused by Mr Blair's weird, redemptive fervour. Time and again his text would drift off toward a new Jerusalem. I had the impression of an addict wrestling with an abstract noun habit.

The Prime Minister would drag himself through the cold turkey of a passage on nursery vouchers, Welfare to Work

change to the way we treat each other. "Uh-oh," I thought, "here we go."

"We are a giving people," he cried, in language redolent of Diana, Princess of Wales. "Make this a giving age... believe in us as much as we believe in you." Taking an expansive view of his role in history, the Prime Minister concluded that, at the last election, "fear itself was defeated. Did I not say it would be a battle of hope against fear? On May 1, 1997, fear lost. Hope

Continued on page 2, col 1

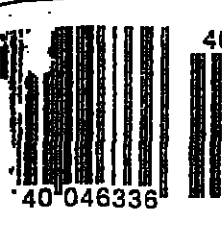
Princess's last is over

Princess Diana's last night in the end of her life.

Princess Diana was escorted up South Water by a flotilla of yachts and naval frigates. She was met by bands and flags. She faces an uncertain retirement, possibly as a hotelier. Page 3

Princess Diana's pool draw. The Celtic drew 0-0 last night in the first of their UEFA Cup tie. Liverpool through to the second round on away goals. Page 48

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Internment will go says Mowlam

By Nicholas Watt, Political Correspondent

IN a dramatic gesture to Sinn Féin, Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, announced yesterday that internment without trial would be removed from the statute book.

She said "radical" new anti-terrorist legislation, which will be introduced next year, would no longer contain the power to intern suspected paramilitaries. "I am going to take that [internment] off the face of the Bill."

Her announcement to a fringe meeting at the Labour Party conference came as Tony Blair made an impassioned plea for an end to "ancient enmities" in Northern Ireland and hailed the two ceasefires and the recent progress in the all-party talks, which have seen republicans and loyalists sitting down together for the first time since 1921. But he added: "There is a long, long way to go. Every step is fragile."

Labour sources tried to play down the significance of Dr Mowlam's announcement by pointing out that she had called for the removal of internment from the statute book while in Opposition. However, the move is one of the Government's most significant "confidence-building measures" to reward the IRA for its latest ceasefire.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP, claimed that

scrapping the law, which allows security forces to detain terrorist suspects indefinitely without trial, was another sop to the IRA and part of Labour's strategy to keep Sinn Féin at the negotiating table. "The IRA have boasted that they have not gone away and Mo Mowlam will learn that sad lesson."

Although internment has not been in force since 1975, Sinn Féin holds an annual rally in Belfast to mark the anniversary of its introduction where former internees give emotional accounts of their time "behind the wire" at the Maze Prison. The measure was used periodically to crack down on republicans by the Unionist-controlled Stormont Government after the partition of Ireland in the 1920s.

The Army and the RUC have been reluctant to call for internment because they say that it would have to be introduced simultaneously in the Irish Republic. They also say that it would inflame the nationalist community.

Dr Mowlam also announced yesterday that the number of "scheduled" or "terrorist" offences would be reviewed. This would reduce the number of cases which go to the non-jury "Diplock" courts which are opposed by nationalists.

Wrecking strategy, page 2

Fears of lovelorn Princess

By Diana, Princess of Wales

DIANA, Princess of Wales, doubted that she would ever find a fulfilling relationship with any man. Andrew Morton says in a new chapter of *Diana: Her True Story - In Her Own Words*.

"Unwanted as a baby, unloved as a wife, she simply desired a man she could rely on," he says.

The depths of her unhappiness and self-doubt were disclosed in more than six hours of tape recordings which the Princess made while alone at Kensington Palace. She is said to have spoken "with breathless haste".

In an extract from the book published in *The Times* today, Mr Morton also describes the Princess's warm relationship with Tony Blair, who recognised her potential skills as an ambassador.

As debate continued about the publication of the revised book, tests in France showed that Henri Paul, the driver of the car in which the Princess died, was a moderate alcoholic who had been drinking heavily during the week before the accident.

Search for love, page 17
Richard Stott, page 25
£124,000 dress, page 14

Style signals new tax for rail staff

By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

DAPPER railway staff sporting chic uniforms may fall prey to the taxman investigating whether their new outfits are in breach of taxation rules.

The Inland Revenue is to keep a close watch on the privatised rail industry as train companies issue corporate uniforms to thousands of station and office staff, drivers and conductors. Work clothes deemed suitable for off-duty wear will be classed as a benefit in kind and employees could be taxed on the value of the uniform.

The purge comes as it emerged that staff at Lunda Air, the airline owned by the former motor racing champion Niki Lauda, have been taxed on designer jeans they wear for work. British staff working for the Austrian airline have been told that they must pay £8 a year tax on the jeans, considered by tax inspectors to be worth £40 and attractive enough to wear outside work. "The staff could not believe it," a Lunda Air spokeswoman said.

Most of the 25 train operating companies have introduced, or are ordering, a new range of uniforms. However, tax inspectors are concerned about a potential shift towards unbranded garments, in contrast to the old British Rail uniforms, in which ties, shirts and even socks were emblazoned with the familiar dou-

ble-arrow logo. "It was easy in the old days, because no one would dare be seen off-duty in a British Rail uniform," said one rail industry figure.

An Inland Revenue spokeswoman said: "We will look at each case on its merits but in simple terms, if the garment is logo-ed, then there will be no tax, but without a logo it may be treated as a benefit in kind."

Cornex South East and Connex South Central have led the field in casting off old-style uniforms, with blue and yellow replacements. However, the French-owned companies may have steered clear of a Revenue rebuke by ensuring that most items sport an emblem.



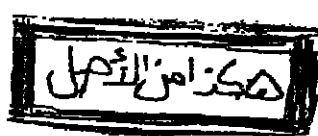
Connex's new look

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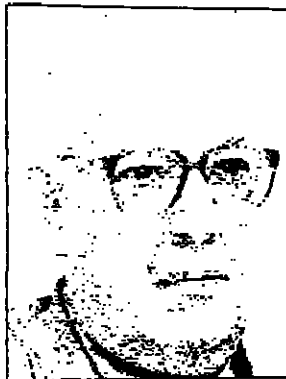
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Unionist leaders launch strategy to wreck peace process



Paisley: opened fighting fund for Province tour

THE Ulster Unionist movement was bitterly divided yesterday after two of its three party leaders launched an all-out campaign to wreck the peace process.

More than 1,300 hardcore Unionists packed Belfast's Ulster Hall on Monday night to hear Ian Paisley and Robert McCartney, leaders of the Democratic Unionist and UK Unionist parties, denounce the Stormont talks as a plot to destroy the Union. They accused David Trimble's much larger Ulster Unionist Party of betrayal for sitting down opposite Sinn Féin.

"We will go to the hamlets, villages, towns and other cities of

Significant opposition could scupper Stormont negotiations, reports Martin Fletcher

our Province and with the help of God we'll set the winds on fire," Dr Paisley vowed in a speech that had the audience on its feet and roaring its approval.

The surprisingly large and vehement crowd proved that there was "significant opposition within the Unionist movement, enough to build a political campaign of rejection", Paul Bew, a politics professor at Queen's University, said.

Together Mr Paisley and Mr McCartney represent more than 40 per cent of Unionist voters, but there

is also significant dissent within the UUP. Writing in *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday, William Ross, an Ulster Unionist MP, openly criticised Mr Trimble for retreating on the issue of IRA disarmament and leading his party into a "dangerous maelstrom".

Mr Trimble, usually considered a hardliner himself, refused to attend the "Ulster in Crisis" meeting, but used a speech in his Upper Bann constituency to hit back at Unionist "prophets of doom". He accused them of relentless negativity and

urged them to "stop stabbing in the back those of us who have the courage to face the enemies of peace and democracy".

He insisted that participating in the talks was the best way to turn the tables on Sinn Féin and force it to choose between walking out or agreeing to an "unmistakably British" outcome.

Mr Trimble received support from Tony Blair, who told the Labour conference that "talking is no treachery. Agreeing is no betrayal. The real betrayal would be to let

violence take the place of democracy in Northern Ireland again." The Prime Minister continued: "In the name of humanity, I ask that ancient enmities be put aside." In her conference speech Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, again urged the DUP and UKUP to join the talks.

Mr Paisley and Mr McCartney opened a fighting fund, promised a grand tour of the Province to rally its people, proposed an urgent Unionist convention and called for the recreation of the Ulster Unionist

Council to organise the defence. Mr McCartney said that the Government was to a strategy of disengagement in Northern Ireland that only overwhelming public demonstration of pro-Union opposition stop.

At Stormont yesterday representatives of the eight parties agreed that all three sides of the full-scale peace negot should begin next Tuesday. The first will explore new arrangements for Northern Ireland, the second north-south relations and the third a strengthened Irish relationship.

EU judge rejects beef ban protest by Britain

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S legal challenge to the ban on its beef exports suffered a big setback yesterday when the European Court of Justice issued an interim opinion that rejected all the Government's arguments against the Brussels action.

The court's advocate-general, whose findings are in most cases later endorsed by the full court, said the need to stop the possible spread of the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) had fully justified the European Commission's action in calling the worldwide ban in March last year. The Conservative Government and the National Farmers' Union had brought separate but similar cases to the court, arguing that the Commission had abused its powers. The Commission had, they claimed, breached single market laws by imposing a discriminatory ban to "protect consumer confidence" and had no right to outlaw exports to countries outside the EU.

The Government yesterday played down the provisional finding, depicting it as a legacy of the confrontational tactics of John Major's team. A British court victory has been deemed unlikely since the court last year rejected an emergency British request for a stay on the ban pending a full ruling. Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said the Government would await the final ruling, expected later this year.

However, the arguments of Giuseppe Tesaro, the Italian advocate-general, gave force to continuing EU complaints that British controls on beef production and exports were inadequate. The European Commission and parliament continue to accuse Britain of failing to put adequate measures in place to ensure that potentially contaminated beef does not reach British or foreign markets. The Commission started legal proceedings against Britain earlier this month to enforce tighter measures.

As an EU parliamentary delegation inspected British

facilities this week. Dr Cunningham issued a denial of continental press reports that he had reported the illegal export of "tens of thousands of tons" of British beef. In a letter to Jacques Santer, president of the Commission, Dr Cunningham said he had been "angered by this baseless report" which had first appeared in a French newspaper on Sunday. Despite the denials, however, Belgian, French and German papers yesterday continued to give the report credence.

Continental resistance to any easing of the ban was also stiffened with the widespread media attention given yesterday to two new studies that confirm a likely link between BSE, or "mad cow" disease, and the new strain of CJD.

Signor Tesaro said: "In the light of the scientific uncertainties and in the absence of reliable national controls — and given the urgency of the situation — the Commission's decision cannot be regarded as manifestly inappropriate."

"Health is a priority objective which justifies restrictions on the free movement of goods and is regarded as fundamental to the common agricultural policy." The extension of the embargo to the whole world was fully justified under EU law because of the risk that British meat would be shipped back into Europe from other countries. He advised the court to order Britain to pay all costs in its case.

British farmers said they were disappointed by the ruling but insisted it should not be seen as a setback for efforts to get the beef ban lifted.

Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, said: "Since the ban was imposed 18 months ago, the Government and our industry have taken enormous steps forward in further helping to eradicate the risk of BSE. He added: "The UK now has the toughest anti-BSE controls anywhere in the world, some of which have been in place since 1989." He said efforts to lift the ban would be redoubled.



Amanda Braithwaite, was pleased because the outcome would help many women in law firms being paid less than men

Legal clerk wins equal pay fight

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN conveying clerk who began proceedings against her law firm when it would not pay her the same as male colleagues or give her a company car has won £19,000 in a pre-hearing settlement.

Amanda Braithwaite, 34, took Hegarty & Co, a firm of solicitors in Peterborough, to an industrial tribunal after it would not comply with equal pay laws. But in a decision that will be watched by many low-paid women in the profession, the firm agreed before the

hearing to pay her back pay and increase her salary to that of the men.

The decision is the latest in a growing number of claims being brought by women solicitors, legal executives and clerks for alleged breaches of sex discrimination or equal pay laws. Yesterday Ms Braithwaite, who has worked for Hegarty & Co for 13 years, said: "I am very pleased because I understand there are a lot of women in other solicitors' firms in the same situation."

She added: "I moved up from being a secretary to doing conveying work and I was earning the same fees, if not more, than the men. But my salary was

only about £19,000, when they were earning £21,000 and had company cars."

Ms Braithwaite said that the firm's senior partner, Richard Hegarty, a senior member of the Law Society council, had been very sympathetic but was unable to persuade some of his partners. Yesterday he said he was delighted. "I advised that Amanda had a cast-iron case."

The outcome was also hailed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, which backed Ms Braithwaite. Kamlesh Bahl, the chairman, said that more such cases were coming as awareness grew and women — now half the legal profession — acquired confidence.

Major overturns tradition to back Hague at Blackpool

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR will break with the tradition of former Tory leaders and make a speech at next week's Conservative Party conference, his first speech since the general election.

The surprising intervention at Blackpool next week is an attempt to bolster the authority of William Hague. Michael Heseltine, the deputy to Mr Major in Downing Street, will be a conspicuous absentee from the conference, for the first time since 1991.

He has dismissed suggestions that he has snubbed Mr Hague. A source close to Mr

Heseltine said: "Michael believes it is time for the next generation to come forward and for old warhorses like him to bow out."

Mr Major and his wife, Norma, will make a flying visit, leaving on the first day of the conference for a lecture tour of the United States. Mr Major will urge the party to rally behind Mr Hague's leadership and reforms of the party.

But problems persist for the party leader. The newly formed pressure group Conservative Democratic Movement has taken a series of

advertisements in national newspapers, including *The Times*, opposing the membership ballot which has secured an approximate 75 per cent endorsement for Mr Hague's leadership.

The founder, Peter Gregory, a party activist from the Skipton and Ripon constituency, is seeking a return of the ballot on an audited basis of one member, one vote. A Tory spokesman said: "It was not a perfect process, but William Hague carried out his word: he consulted."

Labour conference, pages 6-9

Parents who abuse face eviction

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

COURTS have new powers from today to remove parents from the family home if they abuse or assault their children. The measures, contained in the Family Law Act 1996 brought in under the previous Government, will enable courts to issue "ouster" orders for the protection of children.

Before, when courts made emergency protection or interim care orders it was always the child and not the abuser who had to leave the home for new accommodation.

The Act also extends legal protection available to spouses and co-habitants who are the victims of domestic violence to others, such as relatives and former spouses or former co-habitants.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, said the new measures represented "the most significant strengthening of the civil laws dealing with the scourge of domestic violence that we have seen for the last 20 years. The Government is fully aware of the extent of the misery domestic violence can cause."

NEWS IN BRIEF

McAliskey too ill for court says psychiatrist

Extradition proceedings for the terrorist suspect Róis McAliskey were halted yesterday because a professor of psychiatry said that she was too ill to attend court. After hearing that Miss McAliskey could not endure the stress of an appearance, Nicholas Evans, the stipendiary magistrate at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, said that he would grant extradition to the German Government when she could appear. Miss McAliskey is wanted by the Germans as an alleged member of an IRA active service unit which mortally bombed a British Army barracks at Osnabrück in June last year. She faces four charges, including attempted murder and conspiracy to cause explosions, linked to the bombing in which one was injured. While she has been in custody she has given birth to a girl and is on bail in a mother and baby unit at a psychiatric hospital. During the hearing, James Lewis, for the German Government, said that it agreed that a court appearance "would have serious detrimental effect on her mental health."

Arrests in Peps raids

Police raided 15 homes and made nine arrests in connection with a fraud ring in London that has been milking Peps saving schemes with a simple racket. The fraudsters, led by West Africans, made hundreds of applications with cheques of about £5,000 each drawn on bogus accounts. However, during the "cooling off" period for new customers they asked for their money back. Companies sent back the money before discovering the applicants' cheques were worthless. City of London Police said many firms had been hit.

Fifty held by Customs

Customs investigators arrested more than 50 people in dawn raids in London and the South East yesterday in a suspected £100 million duty-free alcohol fraud. A loader handgun and £150,000 were seized. In the raids, 40 Customs officers supported by local police targeted homes, companies and warehouse facilities, including a recognised bonded facility in Ipswich. Customs teams have been working for more than a year on investigations including undercover surveillance.

Lady Steel fined £600

Lady Steel of Aikwood, wife of the former Liberal Lord Steel, was fined £600 and had ten penalty imposed yesterday for a hit-and-run accident in which she knocked over a cyclist in a city centre street. Edinburgh Sheriff Court was told that a passenger had told Lady Steel that the cyclist was "OK". Lady Steel, 57, of Selkirk, a careless driver and failing to stop after an accident on 4. Sheriff James Farrell accepted a not guilty plea to charge of failing to report the accident.

Army denies cover-up

The British Army in Cyprus yesterday angrily allegations of a cover-up after a court in Cyprus dismissed charges against a soldier in connection with a brutal assault on a group of South London tourists. Three other soldiers walked free last Friday. A second defendant yesterday switched his plea to guilty after prosecutors agreed to reduce the charges from grievous bodily harm to actual harm and common assault. "We have done our utmost to operate with the Cyprus police," said an Army spokesman.

Miners win damages

Thousands of former miners are expected to receive compensation claims against British Coal after a court awarded seven miners damages totaling £125,000 in a compensation claim for the crippling known as vibration white finger. The debilitating years of using power tools, deprives sufferers of hands. The High Court in Newcastle upon Tyne January that British Coal and the former N Board had failed to protect workers from the risk.

Guns compensation

As the amnesty for surrender of large-calibre weapons ended last night, the Home Office said that it planned to pay many of the compensation claims in the next two months. Gun groups estimate that the final bill could be £1 million. Officials will settle all straightforward claims including a flat rate of £150 for some weapons and based on an agreed price list. Owners who surrender smaller calibre weapons which are not yet banned receive *ex gratia* payments.

New Labour discovers a new country

Continued from page 1

won." And off he went, hooked on renewal. Is there no way of gently steering this man clear of visionary nouns lest he start shooting up again, and damage himself?

A jaded view, and there is certainly another. I witnessed Mr Blair's reception by two sharply contrasting audiences. In Cinema 5 of the Brighton Odeon, journalists who had failed to

squeeze into the conference hall were given a 300-seat theatre to observe a giant image of Mr Blair, mouthing abstractions for an hour. There was no popcorn. He was observed in a silence punctuated by giggles.

In Cinema 1, a 900-seat theatre was given over to those hordes of the party faithful for whom there was no room in the hall. Mr Blair — or his image — was received with rapture. After the

speech was over, cinemagoers were asked to keep their seats for a surprise. For five minutes Glenda Jackson (whose command is growing) played the unfamiliar role of warm-up artiste.

Then Tony and Cherie walked in. One woman screamed with excitement. Mr Blair shook hands and said how much he needed them. He began talking about New Britain again. When he left, it was to rapture.

Two cinemas not fifty yards from each other. In one the speech worked, in the other it flopped. Powerful movements need a touch of mass hysteria to fuel them and if Mr Blair becomes a great statesman we shall see in yesterday's conference speech early evidence of his inspirational gifts.

If his chariot cartwheels, we shall remark that already in Brighton in 1997 he was starting to flip.

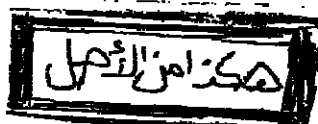


MAN UNITED V'S JUVENTUS

WED 1ST OCTOBER 7.30 PM

SPORT IS FINE ON TV

.....AS IT SHOULD BE



Stop engines: and an old lady is history

THE last of a million passengers who have sailed on the cruise liner *Canberra* over 36 years disembarked at Southampton yesterday, bleary from partying and sad at the loss of a dear, old friend.

Launched in Belfast in 1960, the "Great White Whale" of Falklands fame faces an uncertain retirement.

Her career ended at 12.15pm yesterday when, as she tied up at berth 106, Captain Rory Smith rang down "finished with engines" on the engine-room telegraph, and the youngest apprentice engineer on board acknowledged his final command.

For 20 nights its 1,600 passengers had drunk and danced their way round the Mediterranean on a last cruise that sold out within three days of being advertised.

Many were old *Canberra* hands, including George and Maureen Ramsay from Aberdeen, on their 20th voyage. "This is like your grandmother dying," said the Ramsays.

Her last day in service was more wild wake than solemn funeral. As she nosed up the foggy channel of Southampton Water, dressed overall and festooned with streamers, a flotilla of small boats and

**Alan Hamilton
reports on a sad
day as Canberra
sails home for
the last time**

naval frigates emerged from the morning mist to accompany her home.

Her rails were draped with banners, including personal messages of farewell from loyal cruisers, and one proud reminder of her war service: "*Canberra* cruises where *QE2* refuses" — a reference to her having been a 44,000-ton sitting target in "Bomb Alley" at the height of the Falklands conflict, while her rival Cunard flagship lurked off South Georgia.

As tugs nudged her to her mooring and fire boats played giant fountains, passengers and the 800 crew lined the rails to give lusty voice to *Farwell Canberra, Our Wonderful Home on the Sea*, a song specially composed for the occasion. On the quayside the bands of the Royal Ma-

rines and The Parachute Regiment, old friends of the vessel from Falklands days, replied with *Rule Britannia*. *A Life on the Ocean Wave* and the *Last Post*.

Long, mournful blasts on the ship's hooter were answered by cheers from sightseers crowding the quayside, and with the hoots and whoops of other boats.

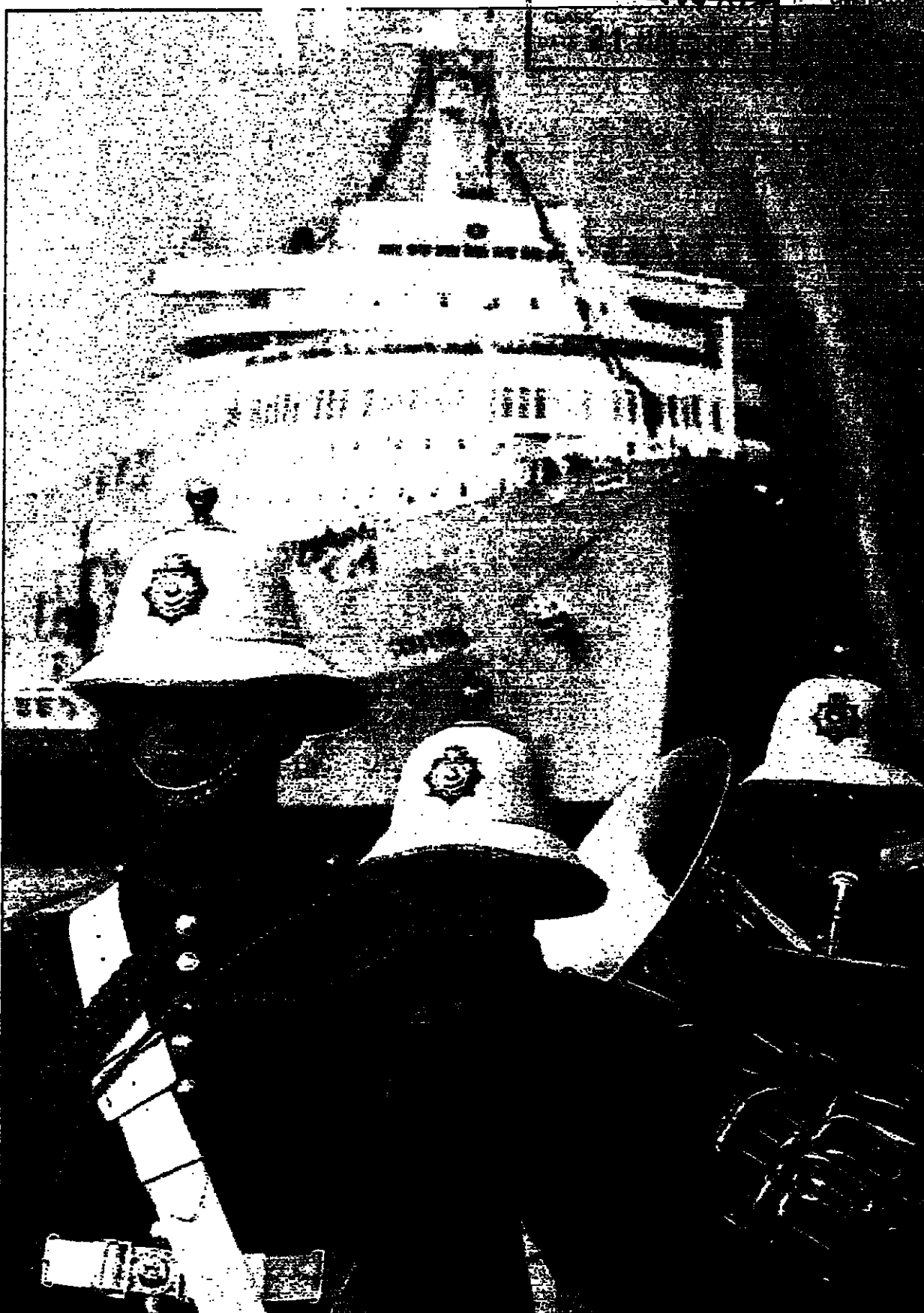
On board, the crew held a charity auction of memorabilia: plaques, crockery, ashtrays — anything with the word *Canberra* on it. But *Canberra* cruisers are an honest lot; the captain reported that nothing had been unscrewed that should not have been.

Passengers struggled to define *Canberra's* indefinable charm. Ann and Jack Tubby, from Worcester, are veteran cruisers both. "This ship has got soul," Mrs Tubby said. "She has character and she is witty; every so often she would belch black smoke over the passengers."

Captain Smith, ruddy-cheeked, grey-bearded and every inch the master mariner, had mixed feelings. "This is a very sad day, but it was also one of great elation when we saw all those accompanying boats appear out of the mist as we passed Calshot. So many people love this ship."

For Captain Smith his next command is the *Arzadia*, a newcomer to P&O cruising. For *Canberra*, the future is less well defined. She may be turned to razor blades, or be sold to a lesser operator. One plan is to establish her as a floating hotel in Sydney Harbour for the Millennium Olympics.

Such use would be appropriate, and not only because she bears the name of the Australian capital: she spent her early years carrying thousands of immigrants to a new life down under on £10 assisted passages.



A Royal Marines band greets the *Canberra* as she sails home to Southampton for the last time yesterday



The triumphant return from the Falklands in 1982

Student 'invited friend to join in with sex'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A STUDENT who claims that she was raped by six army officers tried to persuade her friend to join in a group sex session, it was alleged yesterday.

The woman, 24, suggested to her friend that a group session would be "fun" as they drank with the officers in a pub, Oxford Crown Court was told.

Stewart Montrose, defending Nicholas Oettinger, asked her: "Do you remember saying to your friend 'We could have some fun here' and her responding 'I'm only interested in one? Do you remember at one stage using the phrase 'I can take five — we can do it' or 'I can take the rest'?"

The student, who was 23 at the time of the alleged attack, denied inviting her friend to join in with sex.

Captain Philip Bates, 26, of Bordon, Hampshire, Captain Ian Barlow, 29, of Northallerton, North Yorkshire, Lieutenant Matthew Tupling, 24, of Bordon, Lieutenant Darren Bartlett, 24, of Arbroath, Berkshire, Officer Cadet Andrew Stout, 20, of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Officer Cadet Oettinger, 20, of Preston, deny a single charge of rape on May 27 last year.

The men, from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, are alleged to have raped the woman at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, Oxfordshire, after she had spent the day with them drinking and at a fête.

She had gone back to the military college with her friend and taken a sauna with the men, who were all naked, but fled the sauna in tears after Mr Tupling urinated on her. The student said Mr Oettinger took her to a bedroom to change. She told the jury: "Any sex was out of the question because of what had happened in the sauna. I just wanted to get dressed and go home."

Mr Montrose said: "You were enjoying every moment of this fun and games up until the moment Tupling urinated on you."

"I suggest you have lied to the police and lied to the court about what took place in the sauna. You went up to Bates's room in the knowledge you were going to have sex and prepared to have a good time."

The trial continues.

Perfect English gentleman 'took hotels to the cleaners'

Richard Duce on the supposed serial soiling of a well-travelled suit

LUXURY hotels across Europe were sympathetic when the businessman with the double-barrelled English name wrote to complain that waiters had spilt food on his Savile Row suit.

The hoteliers were happy to meet Charles Chalfont-Morgan's requests for dry cleaning costs to be reimbursed. But Mr Chalfont-Morgan was simply a figment of the imagination of Simone Rossi, a motorcycle courier who made systematic and successful demands for £19.99 cleaning bills, Kingston Crown Court was told yesterday.

Armed with a mail-drop address, a pad of bogus dry-cleaning receipts

and a copy of the *Hotel and Travel Index*, Mr Rossi, 33, is alleged to have made thousands of pounds with his "simple and ingenious" fraud.

David Leckie, for the prosecution, described how Mr Rossi picked hotels in Holland, Denmark, Russia, Poland, Ireland and Turkey and then sent a pro forma letter accompanied by a bogus receipt from the Prim and Proper cleaning company.

The letter said: "The suit is silk and hand made in Savile Row,

London, and as such have incurred a charge of £19.99 which I now ask you to kindly reimburse me."

Mr Leckie said that hotels sent cheques to the Crown business centre in Morden, Surrey where Mr Rossi is alleged to have set up the mail-drop address for £16. Mr Rossi, of Hastings, East Sussex, denies seven charges of obtaining property by deception and false accounting between April and June last year.

But the prosecution alleges that 283 replies were delivered. Mr

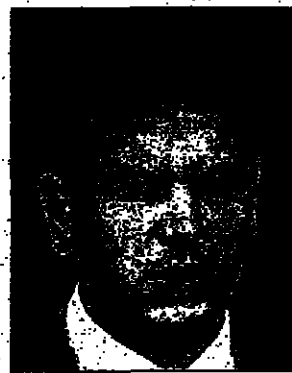
Leckie said 168 were picked up and never recovered but Stephen Crabb, the centre manager, kept a further 120 after becoming suspicious when he was sent a foreign newspaper cutting which named a Mr Chalfont-Morgan as a fraudster. They were found to contain cheques and cash totalling almost £1,800.

Some hotels were also suspicious. The Pulitzer Hotel in Amsterdam replied: "We will not be able to help you as unfortunately for us five-star hotels in Amsterdam keep them-

selves informed about the correspondence they receive."

The court was told that when police searched Mr Rossi's bungalow in June last year they found a John Bull printing press and a receipt book with one receipt stamped Prim and Proper Dry Cleaning Ltd, a company which, it was proved, did not exist.

But Detective Constable Brian Lucas, in charge of the investigation, admitted that they found no letters to hotels and no replies. He also said he had never traced a cashed cheque or a Chalfont-Morgan bank account. The trial continues.



Rossi: denies fraud

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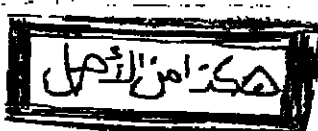
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One in five night operations left to junior surgeons

A FIFTH of all emergency operations at night are performed by unsupervised junior surgeons, and nearly half of the anaesthetists are trainees, a year-long survey of 355 hospitals has found.

A committee of the royal medical colleges set out to discover why "a disturbing number of patients who died had undergone their surgery out of hours". The conclusion was that lack of resources and bad management meant that too much surgery was unnecessarily performed outside normal hours, when duty staff were not fully trained.

The study of 51,600 operations prompted calls yesterday for a reorganisation of hospitals, with larger units built to provide 24-hour theatre cover. At present 93 per cent of operations are performed during normal working hours. Six per cent take place between 6pm and midnight, and 1 per cent between midnight and 8am. The report says that junior house officers, fearful of ringing their seniors for advice, are often left in sole charge at night.

"Too many decisions are made by too-junior trainees," says the National Confidential Inquiry into Perioperative Deaths. Management before operations — such as ensuring that patients were starved before surgery — was some-

A study says that unsupervised staff make too many decisions, Ian Murray reports

times poor, with more guidance needed from experienced staff. Management of intravenous fluids was poor in some cases and records and charts were often poorly kept. The report quotes a registrar's notes: "Patient admitted as an emergency. Performed as per traditional way at the end of the day by a junior doctor, and this is frequently inappropriate." A plastic surgeon had to wait seven hours to amputate the thumb of a four-year-old boy at 10pm. "... and this is less than average delay".

Stuart Ingram, the anaesthetist on the committee, said: "The provision of staffed emergency theatres available throughout the full 24 hours must be the goal for all major hospitals." He added, however: "Making provision for that would be an expensive prospect."

Dr Ingram said that only 0.5 per cent of operations at

night were clinical emergencies, so a dedicated unit could only be justified at a hospital carrying out 200 operations a day. This was double the number performed at the largest hospital at present.

Sir Rodney Sweetnam, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, said: "The days when very small hospital can provide comprehensive services are past. Therefore we need a change in the organisational framework with hospitals working together and trusts amalgamating." Ideally, a major acute hospital should serve a population of between 450,000 and 500,000.

The committee asks: "Have we grown used to a culture where 'emergencies', both in anaesthesia and surgery, are too often seen as the province of trainees?"

"Surely a fundamental reassessment of the arrangements for the management of emergency cases will be required. Emergency in-hours operating lists covered by consultant anaesthetists must be the pattern for the future."



BRIDGET CONSTERDINE with her two-month-old baby, Gabrielle, whose birth has cost her the use of her legs. The multiple sclerosis sufferer said yesterday that she had no regrets (Richard Duce writes).

Sacrifice of MS mother

four steps with the help of a frame. Within four months of falling pregnant, her incurable condition worsened, with her legs becoming almost completely paralysed. Mrs Consterdine, who lives with her husband, Andrew, near Sudbury, Suffolk, said

she had never wanted children until June last year when "something clicked" inside and she decided that she wanted a family.

"As Gabrielle grows up I will still be able to do lots of things with her, like going to the park and swimming. The only thing I get upset about is the thought that I will never be able to run around with her and kick a ball. I will have to leave that part of parenting to my husband."

Pill scare caused abortions and births to soar

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE contraceptive pill scare of October 1995 resulted in 10,000 abortions in the following nine months, equalling the highest termination rate since records began in 1969.

Figures released yesterday by the Office for National Statistics appear to confirm fears that the haste with which the Government issued a warning that some brands of the pill could cause fatal blood clots frightened many women to stop taking it rather than switch to safer brands.

The result was a dramatic increase in abortions and in the birth rate. Between October 1995 and June 1996, 30,000 more pregnancies were recorded than would normally have been expected. The abortion rate rose from 14.5 per thousand women to 16 per thousand, matching levels reached in 1990.

Independent research has already shown that up to 5 per cent of women who had been using the pill may have stopped because of the warnings.

In a typical three-month period there are about 200,000 conceptions in Britain. This figure had been in steady decline in the five years before the pill scare, partly as a result of increased use of the pill among teenage girls and women in their twenties. Rebecca Wood, co-author of the report, said:

But in the nine months after the warning, an estimated

6,000 extra teenage pregnancies were recorded. There were about 9,000 extra conceptions among women aged between 20 and 24, 9,000 among women aged between 25 and 29, and 6,000 among women aged 30 and over.

She added that about half the 6,000 extra teenage pregnancies resulted in abortions. This is considerably higher

Nine out of ten men who had a vasectomy said it was relatively painless, a survey published yesterday found. Many said it had also improved love-making because it removed the fear of unwanted pregnancy. Vasectomy has the lowest failure rate of any form of contraception. None of the 500 men questioned by the charity Head Start International said the operation had any adverse effect on his sex life.

than the normal abortion rate of 20 per cent. Women in their late twenties and thirties, however, were far more likely to have kept their child.

A spokesman for the Family Planning Association said that not all of the extra pregnancies would have been unwanted or unplanned. In some cases, particularly among women in their thirties, the scare may have been the trigger that led them to decide to have children.

More men in their prime cut down by violence

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A GROWING number of men are dying in the prime of life, usually because of violence associated with drugs or alcohol, the Chief Medical Officer has disclosed.

Sir Kenneth Calman said that the death rate for men aged between 25 and 39 was the only one to have risen in the past decade — up by about ten per 100,000. "This is the most productive period of their lives and it is a tragedy not only for them but for their young families," he said at the launch of his annual report.

The report showed that deaths related to drug misuse and accidental poisoning had increased almost six-fold among men aged between 40 and 44 since 1986. Suicide and HIV contributed to the increase, Sir Kenneth said, but it was largely the result of violent crimes, usually involving lower social classes. Domestic violence was

highlighted in the report. Sir Kenneth said that it was responsible for a quarter of reported assaults: up to one woman in three reported that they had been physically abused by a male partner and 40 per cent of the violent killers of women were their current or former partner.

Violence of this sort was more common during pregnancy, and the children of battered mothers were more likely to be abused themselves. "This is a significant problem. Medical staff may not understand it and need to learn to recognise it," Sir Kenneth said. "I don't know what the answer is."

There were implications for the health service because of the added strain such violence put on accident and emergency services, Sir Kenneth said. "Healthcare costs are considerable, personal costs even more so, especially if not

acknowledged or reported. He reported that general health was improving and life expectancy was increasing. However, the health service faced an increasing challenge in providing care for disabled people. There were 7.3 million people with a disabling condition, he said, because of discrimination against them.

Sir Kenneth said that it was disturbing evidence of health inequalities caused by social and regional differences. A man born in inner city areas could expect to live six years longer than a man born in Manchester, he said.

Of the main life-threatening diseases, cancer was causing most concern, having risen 18 per cent among men and 20 per cent among women over the past 12 years. On the State of the Nation 1996 (Stationery Office, £17.50)

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Briton's cocaine trial gets off to a forgetful start

A BRITISH teenager who could face up to 15 years in a Russian labour camp for drug smuggling pleaded not guilty in a Moscow court yesterday at the opening of her retrial.

Karen Henderson, 19, who looked pale but composed as she was escorted under guard to a cage in the courtroom, denied an indictment accusing her of attempting to smuggle 10lb of cocaine from Havana to Warsaw via Moscow. Last year Miss Henderson was sentenced to six years in a women's labour camp, but an appeal court ordered a retrial after serious flaws emerged in the first hearings, particularly the incompetence of a court-appointed interpreter.

In yesterday's hearings the presiding judge, Natalia Arinkina, who sits on a panel of three, went to great lengths to ensure that the proceedings were properly translated to Miss Henderson.

The testimony was in any

The officers in a Moscow drugs

arrest could not remember what

went on, Richard

Beeston reports

case not difficult to follow because the prosecution's first two witnesses, the customs agents who discovered the concealed drugs and detained Miss Henderson, could barely remember any details of the incident nearly 20 months ago.

Dmitri Tyagunov, who found the cocaine hidden in the false bottom of a suitcase, told the court that he could not remember whether the suitcase was marked with a bag-

gage tag, nor if a matching baggage claim was attached to Miss Henderson's airline ticket. "It was a long time ago. I don't remember many of the details," he said. "I could not even tell you if it was night or day."

His colleague, Vladimir Nakhlestkin, similarly had only a hazy recollection of the night in question, and the judge ordered that the head of the customs department at Sheremetevo airport appear before the court with the suitcase and other material evidence on October 14.

Miss Henderson, who was a student in Utrecht, Holland, and returning from a holiday in Latin America when she was arrested, insists that she bought the suitcase from a man at Havana airport because hers had broken, and she had no idea that it contained narcotics.

The defendant's mother, Patricia Henderson, said that



Karen Henderson, 19, who denies attempting to smuggle cocaine, is escorted under guard to a Moscow court yesterday for her retrial

she was distressed by her daughter's appearance and concerned by the time that Miss Henderson had served in Moscow's notorious remand prisons. "I thought that she looked very tired and

drawn, which is not surprising given the cold and the lack of sleep she had."

"She was woken this morning at four o'clock and brought up to the court and I understand that she will not return

to her cell until midnight, when she will have the possibility to have something to eat and drink."

For most of her time in detention, Miss Henderson was held at Moscow's notorious Butyrka prison. She has recently been moved to a new institution, but even there her cell with 20 beds has 70 inmates.

"We are very disappointed with the further delay, especially since she has been held in dreadful circumstances for the past 20 months," Mrs Henderson said. "Even when she is eventually released, great harm will already have been done to her."

PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Brummie accent 'sounds guilty'

REPORTS BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BIRMINGHAM accent might not be illegal, but Brummie suspects are twice as likely to be judged to be guilty from their voices alone.

Brummie comes at the bottom of a hierarchy of regional accents which powerfully influence perceptions of criminal guilt or innocence. While a standard English accent is seen as educated and acceptable, and rural accents such as a Somerset burr are seen as non-threatening, Scouse, Belfast and Glaswegian are some of the "third-class" urban inflections likely to evoke images of criminal activity.

Berence Mahoney, a lecturer at Worcester College of Higher Education, told the British Psychological Society's criminal conference at Cambridge yesterday: "If you asked anyone in the country what the most unpleasant, ugliest accent was, they would

probably say Brummie, but this accent also seems to call up a series of unpleasant cultural associations which create a powerful influence on the listener."

In a research programme at the college, 119 students picked at random were asked to listen to actors reproducing police interviews, in which they were under suspicion of either cheque fraud or armed robbery. The Brummie was thought more than twice as likely as an uninflected speaker to be guilty, regardless of race and type of crime.

"The Brummie suspect was regarded as less intelligent, more likely to be poor and working class and less socially competent," Dr Mahoney said. "As soon as they heard the accent, many of them smirked as if to say, 'I see.'"

Leading article, page 19

Forceful talking causes offence

Male police officers have a derogatory lexicon to describe their female colleagues, including "swamp donkey" and "burger's dog", a former policeman told the conference. The terms are usually sexually offensive.

Malcolm Young, senior research fellow at the University of Hull and a police officer for 11 years, covertly gathered the terms used by his colleagues to describe their female peers.

"They repeatedly used unpleasant terminology, comparing them to animals such as dogs and pigs. Phrases such as 'she's got a face like a robber's dog chewing a wasp' is an example of language deeply entrenched in the culture," Dr Young said.

"Depressingly, I think this kind of language may prove impossible to remove. Although there is now more training, it seems fitting to quote an inspector who said recently that two days' a year training on discrimination issues was akin to giving Lemsip to tackle a brain tumour."

Magistrates 'are softer on women'

Female offenders are often given a more sympathetic hearing by magistrates, who fall back on in-bred cultural stereotyping when sentencing women, the conference was told.

Many sentencing decisions by magistrates rely as much on gut feelings and "common sense" as on a close examination of the facts. Loraine Gelsthorpe, a lecturer at Cambridge University's Institute of Criminology, said.

Women were more likely to receive probation orders or be discharged than be jailed or



Television's *The Bill*: sexes are out of step

fined. Dr Gelsthorpe said that a study of 200 magistrates showed that, while there was no deliberate gender discrimination, many, particularly male magistrates, were more likely to see female offenders as troubled, rather than troublesome.

Stalking law may reveal new cases

New stalking legislation could lead to a great increase in prosecutions brought by victims who previously had no legal recourse, the conference was told. While a government estimate suggested that only 200 cases a year would be brought, research by Leicester University suggests that this was a "gross underestimate".

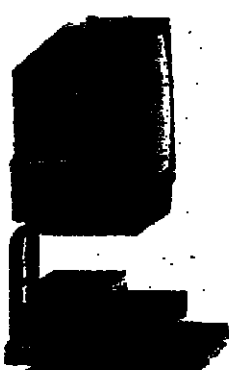
Of 80 women questioned at random, 20 per cent considered themselves victims of stalking and 14 per cent of them severely so. Many would be able to prosecute under the new laws. The women — clerical workers, nurses and students aged between 18 and 55 — were asked to identify behaviour they would consider to be stalking. They agreed on 20 core types, from having their house watched to having their photograph taken without their consent.

Child porn on Internet

Up to 27,000 people access paedophile pornography on the Internet every day, the conference was told. Many of them are using the anonymous contacts to exchange obscene pictures and stories ranging from "snuff" videos to pictures of naked children in catalogues. One couple had advertised to swap their daughter with another in an exchange of abuse.

The conference was told that the Internet provided a detailed index of paedophile fantasies which were presented as a sanitised and normal series of interests. Many others with a marginal interest were also enticed into the world of child pornography by the ease of surfing the Net.

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Criminals face zero tolerance

By JAMES LANDALE

THE Prime Minister yesterday promised to make life harder for criminals by introducing new powers to seize their ill-gotten money.

In his speech to the Labour conference the Prime Minister said he made no apology for backing "zero tolerance" on crime and that the Government would not hesitate to take on organised criminals.

Currently customs officers can only seize money that they believe is linked to drugs. The Government wants to extend the power to cover money from other forms of organised crime such as pornography.

The Government will consider giving police the power to seize money linked to organised crime. Similar powers exist in the United States and Ireland.

Ministers will also try to improve confiscation of criminal assets. Some £25 million a year should be confiscated from convicted criminals but in practice only a third is recovered.

Ministerial team will try to bolster family life

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to set up a special ministerial committee as part of Tony Blair's crusade to tackle the "family crisis" facing Britain today.

The Prime Minister devoted a large part of his speech to the party conference in Brighton to his determination to prevent family breakdown and to ensure that policies were co-ordinated across Whitehall to bolster the family.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is likely to chair the committee on the family, which starts work as soon as MPs return to Westminster. The committee will be charged with scrutinising how every area of policy affects family life and suggesting changes where necessary.

Mr Straw was behind Labour's policy on parenting, published last November, and has led the way on measures to introduce parenting orders, to help stop truancy, to impose curfews for the under-10s and to combat crime.

But it is possible that Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, will co-chair the com-

mittee with Mr Straw. It is understood that she has been angered by the suggestion that Mr Straw will be leading a committee on policies closely related to her own department and her role as Minister for Women.

The ministerial committee will have representatives from Health, Education, Social Security and the Home Office who will ensure that all policies are scrutinised to see how they affect family life.

"We cannot say we want a strong and secure society when we ignore its very foundation: family life," Mr Blair said.

"I am a modern man leading a modern country and this is a modern crisis: nearly 100,000 teenage pregnancies every year. Elderly parents with whom families cannot cope. Children growing up without role models they can respect and learn from. More and deeper poverty. More crime. More truancy. More neglect of educational opportunities. And, above all, more unhappiness."

"Every area of this Government's policy will be scrutinised



BRIGHTON

to see how it affects family life. Every policy examined, every initiative tested, every avenue explored to see how we strengthen our families and there will be a ministerial group to drive it through."

Mr Blair's specific mention of teenage pregnancies could signal further measures to reduce lone parent benefit. He has already enraged many MPs by insisting that the Government will not repeal cuts in single parent benefits.

Yesterday he made clear that single mothers with school-age children would be required to at least visit a jobcentre, rather than staying at home waiting for a benefit cheque every week until the children were sixteen.

The committee is also likely to

look closely at the welfare reforms being worked on by Frank Field, the Social Security Minister, and the study being carried out by Martin Taylor at the Treasury on integrating tax and benefits.

Mr Blair talked of a "fundamental reform of the welfare state, and the deal between citizen and society. It means getting money out of social breakdown and into schools and hospitals where we want to see it."

He made clear that in future some welfare benefits would no longer be provided by the state, but individuals might be expected to take out insurance to cover for certain conditions.

Ministerial sources have already indicated that the Government is looking at the industrial injuries scheme, incapacity benefit and residential care for the elderly.

Mr Blair suggested that pensions were the first area in which the Government would create greater private provision through its stakeholder pension. Labour could no longer afford to put state pensions up across the board and impose even higher taxes.



Going public: Gordon Brown steps out with Sarah Macaulay at Brighton

Brown romance blossoms in the seaside air

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

GORDON BROWN has surprised the Labour Party conference this week. And announcements about cutting the lowest level of income tax to 10 per cent have nothing to do with it.

The Iron Chancellor, invariably described as dour and passionate only about the minutiae of fiscal policy, is suddenly starring in the romance story of the week. After months — years — of speculation the wraps have come off his girlfriend Sarah Macaulay.

While that other bachelor, William Hague, got engaged after a whirlwind romance, Mr Brown's relationship with Ms Macaulay, whom he is said to have met at a Labour fundraising dinner she organised two years ago, has apparently been trundling on for ages. The couple, though, have rarely been seen together.

There was a photograph in a Sunday newspaper of them dining in a restaurant, staring into each other's eyes just before his July Budget. And then Ms Macaulay appeared happy to be snapped, alone, leaving a Downing Street party. But that was it.

In Brighton this week they have finally gone very public. It began on Sunday night when they turned up together at the party thrown by the *New Statesman*, organised by the public relations firm of which Ms Macaulay is joint managing director.

Conference-goers in the Grand Hotel saw the couple stride, smiling through the corridors. Photographers, caught unawares, fell over each other in their haste to get a shot. They need not have worried. There have been

plenty of other opportunities since, and by the time Mr Brown set out from his hotel for the conference hall to make his speech on Monday no eyebrows were raised when she accompanied him for a seaside stroll.

Friends say that their behaviour still does not signify that marriage is imminent. The couple are understood to have been sharing a suite, though this has not been confirmed by Mr Brown's camp. Ms Macaulay, who, like her boyfriend is reserved, does not give interviews about herself, though when a friend told her that *The Times* was writing about her, she said: "Tell him how lovely I am."

Regarded as a slick PR operator, Ms Macaulay, 33, has been busy networking in the conference hotels this week. The friend said she has enjoyed the past few days even though much of her time has been spent playing the waiting game. Not waiting for Mr Brown to propose (though she might be just waiting. Waiting for Mr Brown to finish meetings, conclude interviews, give briefings).

At 8pm on Monday, the day that the Chancellor was most in demand, she was spotted standing in the lobby of the Metropole chatting with friends as she waited for him to come down to dinner. She was still standing there, patiently, at 11.15pm. For those in the bars who cannot resist speculating on such things this has been the most interesting visible aspect of their relationship. After all, keeping one's cool while hanging around for hours in order to eat late dinners is an essential attribute of a Cabinet minister's spouse.

New curbs planned on party donations

By JILL SHERMAN

LEGISLATION to outlaw foreign donations to all political parties will be introduced by the Government this autumn, the Prime Minister announced yesterday.

The Bill will also require all political parties to publish all donations over £5,000. The proposals are line with Labour policy, but Mr Blair yesterday went further than expected.

After the general election, Mr Blair's advisers suggested that the Prime Minister would initially refer the issue of political funding to the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life. But yesterday the Prime Minister announced that he would speed ahead

with legislation as soon as possible.

Officials hinted that in the longer term Mr Blair might introduce state funding for political parties in an attempt to put an end to the wide disparity between the parties' election funds.

The Tories do not at present disclose their donors although William Hague, the party leader, has said that he would also back reforms in this area. The Government is to review the "Widdicombe" rule which bans senior town hall staff from political activity to ensure political impartiality. The review follows growing pressure from party members.

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Fine performance, but can he live up to his promises?

TONY BLAIR now dominates the ideological as well as the electoral landscape. Having expropriated the economic legacy of Thatcherism, yesterday he offered a social and moral agenda for Middle England.

The political genius of Blairism is that, by providing the electoral success the party has craved for so long, he can brush aside most of its beliefs. It is not just public ownership or redistributive taxation. No one expected Mr Blair to talk about socialism or equality. But he also rejected many of the activists' long-held social values — the emphasis on rights and grievances which has dominated the politics of the Left since the late 1960s.

Instead, Mr Blair argued that "a

decent society is not based on rights. It is based on duty. Our duty to each other. To all should be given opportunity, from all responsibility demanded."

He dismissed the objections of civil libertarians to zero tolerance on crime. While emphasising that he was not preaching to individuals about their private lives, he argued that family life was the "very foundation" of a strong and secure society. There will even be a ministerial group to ensure the priority of the family. While urging tolerance and freedom from prejudice on race, he was against positive discrimination.

However, Mr Blair's attempt to pull together these themes under the phrase "The Giving Age" was

**RIDDELL
ON POLITICS**

strained, while the repeated references to "shining beacons" were Kennedyesque in their sonorous emptiness. Nonetheless, it was a formidable performance delivered by a confident leader at the peak of his powers. There was plenty of substance too, notably on education and health, and the new controls on party funding. And, behind the repetition of the familiar wait-and-see formula on a single currency, there were hints of a more positive approach: "We cannot shape Europe unless we matter in Europe."

His underlying warning against complacency was both timely and right. Mr Blair's advisers have been worried about a revival of an old Labour mood — that now the election is won, new Labour can be forgotten. The Blair camp was irritated by John Prescott's triumphalism on Monday and the leader's office intervened over Frank Dobson's plan to bar those who use solely private healthcare from serving on NHS bodies.

Mr Blair wanted to bring the party down to earth. He left no doubt about his ambitions to be "not just a better government than the Tories but one of the great, radical, reforming governments of our history". The question, of

course, is can the Government deliver.

He reaffirmed the priority of welfare reform, saying that the country will not carry on paying more in taxes. So in language reminiscent of David Owen — whom Mr Blair resembles in many other ways as well — there is to be "compassion with a hard edge". The Government's role is "to organise provision — like new stakeholder pensions — not fund it all through ever higher taxes". Housing benefit — "in some areas, virtually designed for fraud" — also has to change.

Mr Blair did not say who would be affected by the "hard choices" which he repeatedly mentioned, though the Government is looking

at the scope for increasing private financing not only of pensions but also of other foreseeable risks like industrial injuries and residential care in old age.

A key test of the party's willingness to accept these "hard choices" will come this afternoon over David Blunkett's proposals on student tuition fees. Mr Blair yesterday promised that resources saved would go back into universities and the cap on student numbers would be lifted. Of course, any defeat will be ignored by ministers. But the vote will show how far delegates are willing to accept the substance as well as applaud the rhetoric of their leader.

PETER RIDDELL

Dobson softens NHS trust job ban

By Polly Newton

FRANK DOBSON, the Health Secretary, yesterday toned down a warning to people with private health insurance that they would not be allowed to sit on the boards of NHS trusts and health authorities.

Mr Dobson softened his speech to delegates at the Labour conference after newspapers reported that he planned to say: "People who don't use the health service won't be running it from now on." The line was replaced in the final version with a promise that NHS boards would be drawn from the communities they served.

"How can people who don't use local hospitals know enough about them to claim to be able to run them?" Mr Dobson said.

Journalists had been briefed on Mr Dobson's speech on the afternoon before his conference appearance, but its contents had to be cleared by the Prime Minister's office.

A source close to Mr Dobson denied that the Health Secretary, who is firmly identified with old Labour, had been "sat on" by Tony Blair. He said that the revised wording still meant that trust board applicants would be rejected if they relied solely on private health care.

However, one insider confirmed that yesterday's reports had caused concern among ministers who feared that Mr Dobson was sending the wrong message to the public. The speech was changed to signal that people would not necessarily be excluded from boards if they had private health insurance through their salary package.

The Prime Minister later announced the setting up of Health Action Zones, designed to encourage innovation. They will be freed from red tape, with greater co-operation between GPs, clinics, and hospitals, less rigid procedures and joint management of budgets.

Ten zones will be designated by next April and areas wanting to be included will have to demonstrate they have a blueprint for better services. The zones might, for example, feature a network of one-stop centres where patients can see a doctor, an optician, a dentist or a drug counsellor.

TODAY'S AGENDA

MORNING: John Prescott on transport and the environment.
AFTERNOON: David Blunkett on education; Chris Smith on the "creative economy"; Harriet Harman on social security.
THE FRINGE: Peter Marchant on the Government's relationship with the unions (Metropole Hotel, 1pm); Robin Cook on referendums and electoral reform (Adlon Hotel, 7.30pm); Arthur Scargill on justice for miners (Middle Street School, 7.30pm).

Blair strives to calm anger on tuition fees

TONY BLAIR yesterday sought to head off a potential defeat over university tuition fees at the Labour conference by promising to increase student numbers and exempt low income families from the new charge.

The Prime Minister also promised to make Britain's education system a "beacon to the world" as he announced proposals to raise standards and repair crumbling school buildings. Ministers will today hear angry protests from some delegates over their plans to charge students £1,000 tuition fees from next year, ending the long-held principle of free higher education. Mr Blair said that families on low incomes would be exempt from the fees and insisted that students could repay cost-of-living loans only when they could afford to do so.

He also promised to plough the money back into higher education — something that universities are demanding, saying: "We will put resources saved through reform into frontline provision in universities and further education." However, there was confusion last night over how much money would go into higher education when officials denied that the savings would be formally ringfenced to pay for extra student places.

However, Mr Blair set the Government an ambitious target of securing an extra 500,000 students in higher and further education by 2002.

Mr Blair won a big cheer from delegates when he announced that the Government would reverse a Conservative plan to cut spending on lessons for children for whom English is a second language. Under the Major Govern-

Low income

families to

be exempt,

write Polly

Newton and

James Landale

ment's proposals, the number of teachers and classroom assistants teaching English as a second language would have been cut by 7,000 and funding reduced from £83 million to £43 million.

Officials last night admitted that the surprise move constituted a new spending commitment, and said that the Treasury was "looking for ways to make good the shortfall". Mr Blair said: "That money is not a cost, it is an investment and it is one a civilised nation should make."

Mr Blair also set a new target of allocating £2 billion during this Parliament for school repairs and equipment. He published a list of the first 2,300 schools to benefit from the cash with 10,000 benefiting by 2002.

He confirmed his previous pledge to improve the technology available to pupils. He promised delegates that by 2002 all 32,000 schools in Britain would have modern computers with educational programmes and qualified teachers.

For the first time, information technology will be a required part of teacher training. The computers would be connected without charge to the information superhigh-

way, with bills as low as £1 per pupil per year.

Mr Blair also urged parents to sign "home-school contracts", become more involved in their children's homework and support new measures to tackle truancy. He also confirmed the Government's plans to improve standards of literacy and numeracy.

The Prime Minister said that his goal was to make Britain "the best educated and skilled country in the world" and pledged: "Every single part of our schools system must be modernised to achieve it."

Diana Warwick, chief executive of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, welcomed the priority given to higher education in Mr Blair's conference speech. "I congratulate the Government for its refusal to shirk hard decisions which have to be made," she said. "I particularly welcome the removal of the cap on student numbers which will give more opportunity to people to benefit from life-long learning who have missed out in the past."

Angela Browning, the Conservatives' education spokeswoman, said: "The Prime Minister said he wanted to give young people from all backgrounds the opportunity to go to university."

"Yet he rejected the formula in the Dearing report [on the funding of higher education] which would do that, and instead has set out proposals to abolish the maintenance grant and introduce means-tested tuition fees. These proposals would hurt one group harder than any other — the poor."

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Media, page 23



Emma O'Brien at summer school. She told Tony Blair: "You and the Parliament have done the right thing"

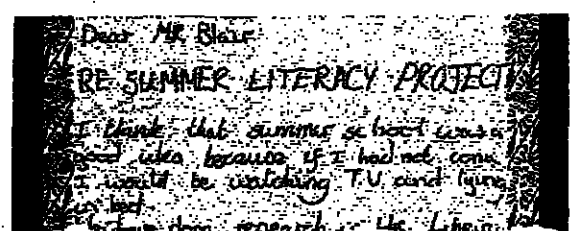
Girl whose words meant so much

By Russell Jenkins

A SCHOOLGIRL whose letter was read to the conference by Tony Blair last night spoke of her pride at being singled out by the Prime Minister.

Emma O'Brien, 11, wrote in praise of a summer school which she attended for four weeks to improve her literacy. She explained to Mr Blair that she would normally have wasted the holiday watching television. Instead, her reading and writing had improved and she had had fun, too.

"I have started to read more books at home because summer school has really shown me that it is important. I have learnt more spellings. All of us have made new friends," she wrote. "If I had the opportunity to come here every summer I would. I think you and the Parliament



What I did in my holidays: the letter to the Prime Minister written at summer school

have done the right thing. I think I have got a better education."

Mr Blair told the conference that it was not the titles and the trappings that made government worthwhile, it was receiving letters like Emma's.

The summer school was one of 30 pilot projects this year. All the pupils were asked to write to the Prime Minister telling him about the course. Mr Blair's office tele-

phoned the family yesterday to ask permission to mention the letter. Emma said: "My headmaster called me out of class and asked if I would mind if the Prime Minister mentioned me in his speech. I rushed to phone my nana and asked her to video it."

"There was only one downside to the summer school: we could not go to Spain for our holidays like we did last year. But I think it was worth it because all my

friends and family say I am not shy any more."

"Each morning we practised our reading and spelling and the teachers encouraged us to read out loud. In the afternoon we would get treats like going to the pictures, and once we went to Bultin's."

The schoolgirl lives in Stanney Grange, Ellesmere Port, with her parents and three brothers. Her father, Dennis, a taxi driver, said: "I am very proud."

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Blair sets Britain on course to be

It has been a very long time waiting for this moment and all I can tell you is that after 18 long years of Opposition, I am deeply proud — privileged — to stand before you as the new Labour Prime Minister of our country.

I believe in Britain. I believe in the British people. One cross on the ballot paper. One nation was reborn.

Today, I want to set an ambitious course for this country: to be nothing less than the model 21st-century nation, a beacon to the world. It means drawing deep into the richness of the British character. Creative. Compassionate. Outward-looking. Old British values, but a new British confidence.

We can never be the biggest. We may never again be the mightiest. But we can be the best. The best place to live. The best place to bring up children, the best place to lead a fulfilled life, the best place to grow old.

Fourteen years ago, our party was written off as history. This year we made history. And let our first thanks be to the British people. You kept faith with us. And we will keep faith with you. Thank you to the party organisation, the volunteers, the professionals who fashioned the finest political fighting machine our country has ever known.

Let me pay my thanks to those that led our party before me. To Neil Kinnock the mantle of Prime Minister was never his. But I know that without him, I would never have been mine. To John Smith: who left us a fine legacy, and to whom we can now leave a fitting monument — a Scottish parliament in the city where he lived, serving the country he loved and the people who loved him.

And to Jim Callaghan, who was attending Labour Party conferences before I was born: and by the look of him, will be attending long after I've gone. My own debt of honour to Michael Foot: you led this party when, frankly, it was incapable of being led, and without ever losing a shred of your decency or your integrity. Thank you.

I suppose I should also say a final word of thanks to the Tory party. Let's be honest, we've never done so well without them. So thanks to Michael Howard, to John Redwood, to Peter Lilley, to Brian Mawhinney. Sorry —



BRIGHTON

Sir Brian Mawhinney — knighted for services to the Conservative Party. According to John Prescott, he should be given a peerage — for services to the Labour Party.

As for government, well, it beats the hell out of opposition. They really do say "Yes, Prime Minister" — not the Cabinet, obviously. You have to learn a whole new language. They're not in the habit of calling anything a good idea, which given the last 18 years is hardly surprising. When they describe a proposal as "ambitious" or, even worse, "interesting", what they really mean is they think

6 Ours was not a victory of politicians but of people. The people took their trust, and gave it to us. I want them to say, this week as they watch us here in Brighton, We did the right thing

it was a stupid idea, dreamt up at the last minute for the manifesto.

When they describe it as "challenging", they mean there's not a hope in hell of making it work. And when they say of a policy "really a brave proposal, Prime Minister", it means they've got the doctor outside waiting to sign the certificate and they've just applied for a transfer to a senior job administering one of our few remaining dependent territories.

It's not the titles and the cars and the trappings that make government worthwhile. It's letters like this from 11-year-old Emma O'Brien from Ellesmere Port: "Summer school was a good idea. I have started to read more books. I have learnt more spellings. We've had fun. All of us have made new friends. I think you and Parliament have done the right thing. I have got a better education."

Or this one from Mrs Patricia Lewis, of South London: "Each afternoon I collected

Debts of honour were settled, promises reiterated, and a vision of the future outlined in the Prime Minister's speech to his party conference in Brighton yesterday

him from school. By the fourth day the change was showing in Stephen. His enthusiasm grew, confidence gained, his ability to read, write, spell, speak, and question politely, was amazing."

That is why we are here. That is what makes the fighting worth it. These are the people we are here to serve.

Ours was not a victory of politicians but of people. The people took their trust, and gave it to us. I want them to say, this week as they watch us here in Brighton, "We did the right thing." I want the British people to be as proud of having elected us as we are to

serve them. We won because we are new Labour, because we had the courage to change ourselves, and the discipline to take hard decisions, whilst remaining united.

Even now — and I say this even now — no complacency. I know I'm obsessive about this. But I will admit now that I perhaps went over the top when I phoned Millbank Tower on election night to say that people were behaving as though it was in the bag.

I was told: "Look, we've got 150 seats. The Tories have got six. It's hard to persuade the media this thing's on a knife edge." But still, no complacency.

May I was the beginning, not the end. We have never won two full consecutive terms of office. Never. That is one more record I want to break. No cockiness about the Tories, even now. They're not dead, they're just sleeping.

Let their fate serve rather as a warning to us. What the

people give, the people can take away. We are the servants. They are the masters now.

Last year we were talking about what we would do. This year we're doing it. That ten-point contract with the British people, we are honouring. We said we would get more money into schools and hospitals. We have. £2.2 billion more than Tories planned to spend next year. We said we'd sign the social chapter. We did. We said we'd restore trade unions at GCHQ. On May 19, free and independent trade unions came back to GCHQ.

We said we'd set up a Low Pay Commission. We have, and the statutory national minimum wage is on its way for the people of Britain.

We said we'd legislate to release the money from selling council homes in order to house the homeless. We've done it, the money is being released.

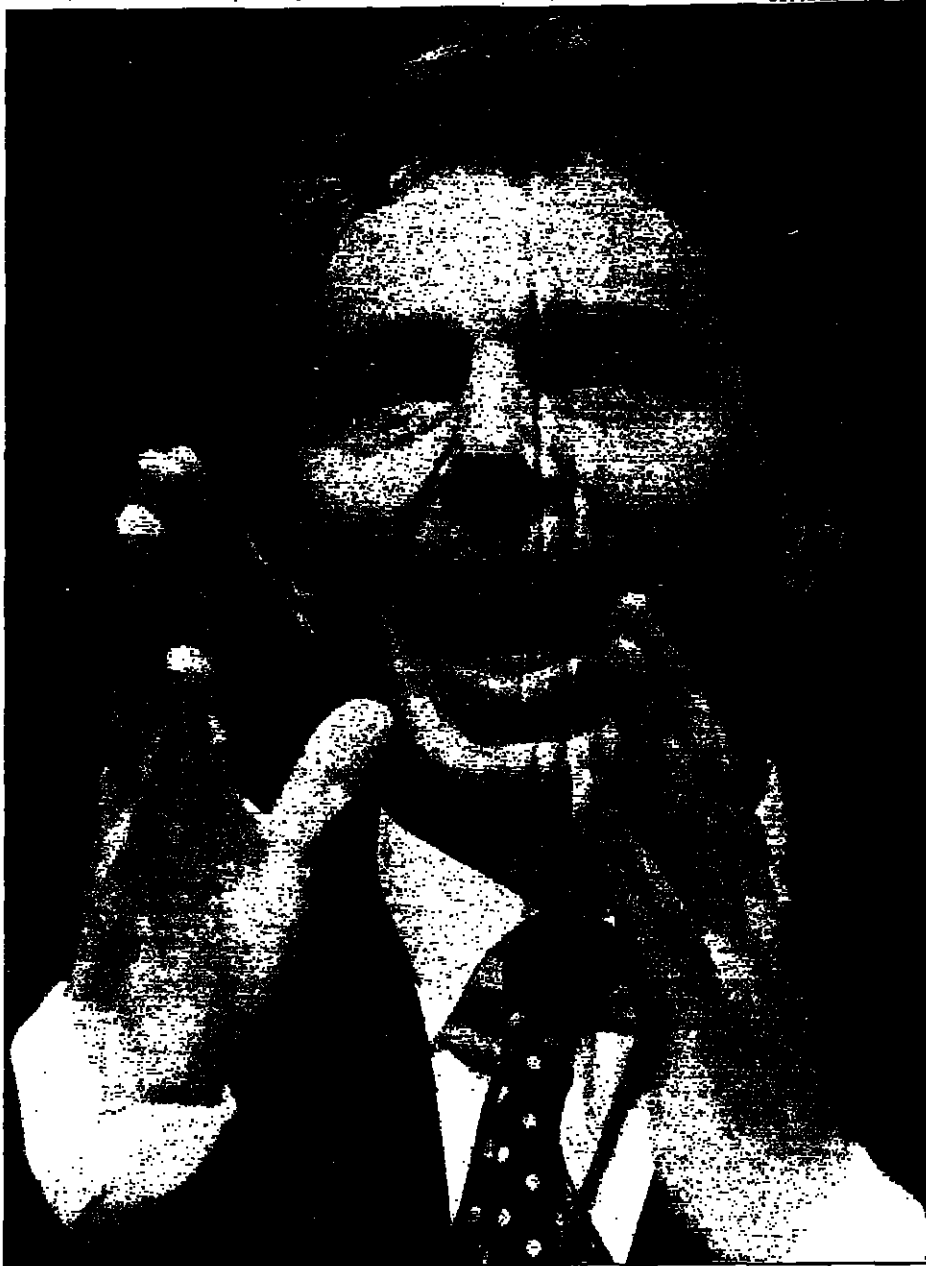
We said we'd cut class sizes by scrapping the Assisted Places Scheme. The law to do it has been passed. We've given the people of Scotland and Wales the devolution referendums we promised, and they have voted: yes, yes, and yes again.

We said we'd reform the lottery to address the people's priorities. We have, and today more proposals on how we'll reform it further and get more money to more local projects, the length and breadth of Britain, preparing for the millennium.

We said we'd cut VAT on fuel. We have. We never said we'd cut corporation tax. But we did anyway, to the lowest level it's ever been. And we have brought Britain's top business brains right into the heart of government.

And we said we'd force the water companies to give a better deal to their customers. A few hours of quiet diplomacy by Mr John Prescott did the business. Well done, John.

We owed a debt to the



Tony Blair making his first major address to Labour members since the election

people of Dunblane. We said MPs would vote to ban handguns. MPs have had that vote. The people have spoken. Parliament has spoken. Handguns are banned. We have honoured our debt.

We said we'd ban the evil of landmines. They're banned in Britain and we'll keep working until they are banned the world over.

Of all we have done, ask me what has taken the most time, the most effort, it's probably Northern Ireland. There is no tougher job in government than Northern Ireland. There is no person to do it than Mo Mowlam. The effort has been worth it. The ceasefire has been renewed.

Republicans and Unionists are talking for the first time since 1921. There is a long, long way to go. Every step is fragile. But in the name of humanity, I ask that ancient enmities be put aside.

Talking is no treachery. Agreeing is no betrayal. The real betrayal would be to let violence take the place of democracy in Northern Ireland again.

But I want to do more than keep our promises. I sense the British people demand more of us, too. People ask me the highlight of the election. Mine was driving from home to Buckingham Palace, along streets we had driven hundreds of times, past soulless buildings and sullen faces on their way to work. This drive was so different. As we turned into Gower Street, people watching our journey on TV came pouring out of the doorways, waving and shouting and clapping, with an energy and excitement that went beyond anything I imagined would happen.

They were liberated. Theirs were the smiles of tolerant, broadminded, outward-looking, compassionate people and suddenly they learnt that they were in the majority after all. As one woman put it to me: "We've got our Government back." And with them I could sense confidence returning to the British people, compassion to the British soul, unity to the British nation, and that all

three would give us new-found strength.

You see, the people were yearning for change in their country, at a time when they could see we had had the guts to modernise our party. The two came together.

The result is a quiet revolution now taking place. Led by the real modernisers: not me, the British people. They were the ones who had the guts to do it. And I say the size of our victory puts a special responsibility on us. To be a Government of high ideals and hard choices. Not popular for one time, but remembered for all time. Not just a better Government than the Tories but one of the great, radical, reforming governments of our history.

The British don't fear change. We are one of the great innovative peoples. From the Magna Carta to the first Parliament to the industrial revolution to an empire that covered the world. Most

place to be. And it can be much more, if we face the challenge of a world around us today that has its finger on the fast-forward button; where every part of the picture of our life is changing, changing constantly.

So today I say to the British people: the chains of mediocrity have broken, the tired days are behind us, we are free to excel once more. We are free to build that model 21st-century nation, to become that beacon to the world.

Creative. Compassionate. Confident of our place in the world. And you know, when people say, "Sorry, that's too ambitious. Sorry, it can't be done," I say: this is not a sorry country, we are not a sorry people. It can be done: if you have the will, the courage and determination to do it.

And every part of our schools system, every part, must be modernised to achieve it. Nearly 40 per cent

6 The size of our victory puts a special responsibility on us. To be a Government of high ideals and hard choices, remembered for all time. One of the great, radical, reforming governments

of the great inventions of modern times with Britain stamped on them: the telephone; the television; the computer; penicillin; the hovercraft; radar.

Change is in the blood and bones of the British. We are by our nature and tradition innovators, adventurers, pioneers. As our great poet of renewal and recovery, John Milton, put it, we are "a nation not slow or dull, but of quick, ingenious and piercing spirit, acute to invent, subtle and sinewy to discourse, not beneath the reach of any point that human capacity can soar to."

Even today, in Britain we lead the world, in design, pharmaceuticals, financial services, telecommunications. We have the world's first language, English. Britain today is an exciting, inspiring

of 11-year-olds can't read, write or add up properly. Forty-second in the world education league. This is the scandalous legacy. But it's not just the Tories' fault, but of a country too often content to educate the elite and ignore education for all.

Education, education, education. Remember? In just five months, we made a remarkable beginning, under the brilliant leadership of David Blunkett. But today I can tell you we are hoping to do more.

Equipping our schools. We are publishing today details of agreements involving government and the private sector, for the biggest public/private partnership in any education system, anywhere in the world, which will mean by 2002 every one of the 32,000 schools in Britain will have modern computers, the educa-

tional programmes to go on them, the teachers skilled to teach on them, the pupils skilled to use them, connected to the superhighway for free and with phone bills slashed to as low as £1 per pupil per year.

And we are changing the amount of money we are going to put in the school repairs programme. We are setting a new target of £2 billion for this Parliament for our school repairs and equipment programme. A list of the first 2,300 schools to benefit is being published today. The money is being allocated today. One of the head teachers is here with us. By the year 2002 up to 10,000 schools will benefit from that programme.

We are launching the biggest assault on poor literacy and numeracy standards this country has seen. We are going to set ourselves a target of 80 per cent up to the standard in literacy, 75 per cent for numeracy by the year 2002, and we'll keep on until every 11-year-old in every school in every part of Britain gets the start in life they deserve.

Nursery vouchers have gone and instead we'll get nursery places for all four-year-olds and we're on the way to places for all three-year-olds as well.

But here are the hard choices. The money will be there, but in return we modernise the system. No failure. No muddling through. No second-best.

High standards. The pursuit of excellence. Discipline and leadership. Support from home. Not for some children in some schools. But for all children in all schools. Each school that needs it, and every education authority, will be set targets for improvement. Failing schools and LEAs will be taken over. Teacher training will be reformed. Head teachers will have a proper qualification. Poor teachers will go.

Now people say my job's pressurised. So is teaching. And don't let anybody think that we are tough on bad teaching because we don't value teachers. We are tough on bad teachers precisely because we do value good teachers, who need high-quality teachers working alongside them.

And parents have to play their part. There will be home-school contracts for all pupils. Sign them. There will be new measures to tackle truancy and disruptive children, new homework requirements. Support them. And when a school disciplines a child, why not back the teacher? The high ideal of the best schools in the world. Reached through hard choices.

Universities in Britain have had their funding cut by 40 per cent per student under the Tories. The science and research base of this nation — once the envy of the world — under threat. The Tories even put a cap on student numbers. Only 30 per cent of youngsters in Britain can be admitted to go to university. Fewer, not just than France or the USA, but fewer than South Korea.

There's a hard choice: stay as we are and decline, or modernise and win. Under our proposals, no parent will have to pay more. Low-income families will be entirely exempt from tuition fees. All students will repay only as they can afford to.

And if we reform, I am going to pledge to you, that by the end of this Parliament, we will have put resources saved through reform into frontline provision in universities and further education; but first £165 million is already in next year's budgets. And we will lift the cap on student numbers and set a target for an extra 500,000 people into higher and further education by the year 2002.

Within days of taking office, we took one of the hardest

Continued on facing page

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First drafts began in Tuscany

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR began the first draft of his conference speech by the swimming pool of his holiday villa in Tuscany two months ago. Yet when he had arrived there, the Prime Minister declared that all he wanted to do was relax and play tennis.

Along with the tennis racket and swimming trunks in his suitcase was a sheaf of papers from the Downing Street Policy Unit. They contained ideas for the first speech by a Prime Minister to a Labour conference for two decades.

Mr Blair sketched out his own ideas and continued to work on them on the next leg of his holiday in France. By the time he returned he had mapped out the entire structure and coined the opening phrase: Britain should be a "model 21st-century nation".

He also invented the "Giving Age".

A flurry of meetings was held with advisers, David Blunkett and his education team were heavily involved. The policy unit, led by David Milliband and

Peter Hyman, refined the ideas.

Mr Blair and Alastair Campbell, his press secretary, began the arduous task of writing it. Mr Blair wrote thousands of words by hand with sheets of paper strewn over the floor. Only three weeks ago, determined to avoid a triumphalist, coronation-style oration, he ripped up a proposed and rousing peroration.

The first draft was two hours long. Mr Milliband and Mr Hyman cut it by half. By the weekend they were nearly there. Each section was shown to the policy unit for comments as Mr Blair rehearsed in his hotel suite.

Mr Blair in Tuscany: he wrote his speech by pool

a world model for the 21st century

Continued from facing page
choices of all: we gave the Bank of England the right to decide interest rates and take the politics out of mortgages. And, yes, in the short term it's tough. That's what it's about. Interest rates have gone up. But I say to people, better to go up now, still only by 1 per cent, than to go back to the days of the last Tory Government when mortgages were at 15 per cent for a year, one million homes in negative equity, a whole swath of British industry wiped out.

We are cutting the Tory deficit, too. We are sorting out the public finances. Borrow only for investment. Hold debt down. Earn before you spend. Don't live on tick. I want this to be the new Labour Government that ended Tory boom and bust for ever.

Twenty years ago, the IMF came to bury us. Now they come to praise us. Yes, new Labour's got new friends everywhere. I want Britain to be a country of enterprise and ambition where small businesses grow, manufacturing and engineering revive, where we learn the lessons of British industrial relations over the past 100 years.

Fairness at work, yes. But flexibility will remain. For business, this will be a Government on your side, not in your way. And I say to both sides of industry, there is no place either today for militant trade unionism or uncaring management. Partnership is the key and that is the only language this new Labour Government will respect.

And we can do it if we face those hard choices. It's pretty simple, the type of country I want. It's a country where our children are proud and happy to grow up in, feeling good not just about themselves, but about the community around them.

I don't want them living in a country where some of them go to school hungry, unable to learn because their parents can't afford to feed them; where they can see drugs being traded at school gates; where gangs of teenagers hang around street corners, doing nothing but spitting and swearing and abusing passers-by.

I don't want them brought up in a country where the only way pensioners can get long-term care is by selling their home, where people who fought to keep that country free are now faced every winter with the struggle for survival, skipping and saving, cold and alone, waiting for death to take them.

And I will not rest until that country is gone, until all our children live in a Britain where no child goes hungry, the young are employed, and the old are cherished and valued to the end of their days.

But let me spell out some facts. After 18 years of Tory Government, of cuts and closures, of declining public services, the country was taxed more than under the last Labour Government.

This country, any country today, will not just carry on paying out more in taxes and getting less. Our new society that we want to create will have the same values as it ever did. Fighting poverty and unemployment. Securing justice and opportunity. It should be a compassionate society. It must be a compassionate society.

But it is compassion with a hard edge. Because a strong society cannot be built in the real world on soft choices. It means fundamental reform of our welfare state, of the deal between citizen and society. It means getting money out of social breakdown and into schools and hospitals where we want to see it.

The new welfare state must encourage work, not dependency. We are giving young people and the long-term unemployed the opportunity. A £3.5 billion investment. We are adding today the option of self-employment as part of the new deal. But I think it right and fair that they have to take one of the options on offer. We want single mothers with school-age children at least to visit a job centre, not just stay at home waiting for the benefit cheque every week until the children are 16.

We need to invest more as a country in savings and pensions. We all know that we all agree with it. But government's role is going to be to organise provision, like new stakeholder pensions, not fund it all through ever higher taxes. And our number one priority is to get help to the poorest pensioners first.

Housing benefit, in some areas, is virtually designed for fraud. It's true. It has to change. So we cannot be that beacon to the world in the year 2005 with a welfare state built for the very different world of 1945. Our tax system should



The Prime Minister arriving at the conference hall yesterday. He thanked the party workers for "fashioning the finest political fighting machine our country has known"

reward hard work. In the Eighties, the Tories took down high marginal tax rates for high earners. It is time we did the same for Britain's working poor.

And the same drive for reform applies to the NHS. I'm tired of hearing the NHS described as if it were a relic. It isn't. It was the greatest act of modernisation any Labour government has ever done. But my vision is not just to save the NHS, but make it better.

The money will be there. I promise you that. This year,

offers huge opportunities in the NHS but we haven't yet begun to seize them properly. We will get the money in. But in return, I want reform.

From next April, there will be up to ten specially funded Health Action Zones set up in Britain. Their remit: to experiment with new ideas in the way healthcare is delivered, so that patients get a better deal from their health service for the 21st century. The NHS was a beacon to the world in 1948. It will always be safe with us. I want it to be better with us. And we need to bring a

changing for the better. A go-ahead place. The gates of xenophobia falling down. This Government, our Government, it can be the Government of enlightened patriotism. Again my vision for post-Empire Britain is clear. It is to make this country pivotal, a leader in the world. With the US our friend and ally. Within the Commonwealth. In the United Nations. In Nato. To use the superb reputation of our Armed Forces, not just for defence, but as an instrument of influence in a world of collective security and co-operation.

I give you this pledge. Every area of this Government's policy will be scrutinised to see how it affects family life. Every policy examined, every initiative tested, every avenue explored to see how we strengthen our families, and you will have a ministerial group to drive it through. We cannot do it all on our own, but I do believe government should play its part.

And just in case you think we are asking everyone to change but not government itself, we will publish a White Paper in the new year for what we call Simple Government, to cut the bureaucracy of government and improve its service. We are going to set a target that within five years, one quarter of dealings with government can be done by a member of the public electronically through their television, telephone or computer.

Our politics are being reformed. And when we started on May 1 with a Government with more than 100 women MPs, that was a reform worth having.

And we will deliver the Scottish parliament and the Welsh assembly after 100 years of trying, and I say to the House of Lords before it is reformed, "Don't try to wreck this legislation: we have the votes of the people, you've got the votes of nobody." Yes, and when the people vote for it, we will have a strategic authority and elected mayor for London as well.

I can announce to you we are going to bring forward a Bill to ban foreign donations to political parties and to compel all parties to make contributions above £5,000 public. And we are going to ask the Nolan committee to look at the wider question of party funding. At the election, all political parties will at last compete on a level playing field.

But I know some of you are a bit nervous about what I am doing with the Liberal Democrats. Though not half as nervous as they are. Since this is a day for honesty, I'll tell you: my heroes aren't just Ernie Bevin, Nye Bevan and Attlee. They are also Keynes, Beveridge, Lloyd George. Division among radicals almost 100 years ago resulted in a 20th century dominated by Conservatives. I want the 21st century to be the century of the radicals.

We cannot be a beacon to the world unless the talents of all the people shine through. Not one black High Court judge, not one black chief constable or permanent secretary. Not one black army officer above the rank of colonel. Not one Asian, either. Not a record of pride for the British establishment. And not a record of pride for the British Parliament that there are so few black and Asian MPs.

I am against positive discrimination. But there is no harm in reminding ourselves just how much negative discrimination there is. And just one small but important thing: on taking office, we discovered that the last Government planned to cut from £25 million to £43 million the Home Office Section 11 budget and make redundant 7,000 teachers and classroom assistants who help children for whom English is a second language. Today, I shall announce to you that that Tory cut will not stand. I'll tell you why. That money is not a cost, it is an investment. And it's one a civilised nation should make. There's huge interest in Britain now. Because people know that this is a country

Europe unless we matter in Europe. I know there will be a hard choice to come over a single currency. And our policy, based as it is on the British national interest, remains unchanged. But in or out, we will be affected by it and must remain able to influence the way that it works.

And elsewhere, too, new respect and influence. In tackling Third World debt. On the environment. Today, in London, the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser is issuing a report on global

two rocks upon which the new Britain is raised to the heights. Lose either one and we come crashing down until we are just another average nation, scrabbling around for salvation in the ebbing tide of the 20th century.

That is why we changed the Labour Party. To make new Britain. It is why we will carry on changing. It is why it was right yesterday to take another historic step on the road to reform of our party so that never again will a Labour government be torn about by divisions between leadership

reason for its existence. And ours, you know, is a simple enough vision. But it will require a supreme national effort. It is a task for a whole people, not just a government. Great challenges. But great rewards for all of us if we can rise to them as we can.

And rise as one nation. Held together by our values and by the strength of our character. We are a giving people. In the face of crisis or challenge, we pull together, strengthened by unity. It says nothing about our politics. It speaks volumes about our character.

You remember how your parents, like mine, used to say to you: "Just do your best." Well, let us do our best. On May 1, the people entrusted to me with the task of leading our country into a new century. That was your challenge to me. And proudly, humbly, I accepted it. Today, I issue a challenge to you. Help us make Britain a beacon shining through out the world. Unite behind our mission to modernise our country for all our people. For there is a place for all the people in new Britain, and there is a role for all the people in its creation. Believe in us as much as we believe in you.

Give just as much to our country as all of us intend to give. Give your all. Make this the giving age.

"By the strength of our common endeavour, we achieve more together than we can alone." On May 1, 1997, it wasn't just the Tories who were defeated. Cynicism was defeated. Fear of change was defeated. Fear itself was defeated. Did I not say it would be a battle of hope against fear? On May 1, 1997, fear lost. Hope won. The Giving Age began.

Now make the good that is in the heart of each of us serve the good of all of us. Give to our country the gift of our energy, our ideas, our hopes, our talents. Use them to build a country each of whose people will say that "I care about Britain because I know that Britain cares about me."

Britain, head and heart, will be unbeatable. That is the Britain I offer you. That is the Britain that together can be ours.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Crafting the speech, page 23

How a long, dark night began

By DANIEL MCGROARY

THE last time Labour had a Prime Minister to address its conference, 19 years ago, the comrades were preparing an ambush.

Among those gathered at Blackpool in October 1978 the fashion was for long hair, wide lapels and deriding their leader, James Callaghan. This was the era when union leaders flexed their muscles, and the best that Labour officials could hope for was to staunch the Government's growing unpopularity. On the eve of the Prime Minister's speech, delegates voted by a margin of more than two to one to reject Mr Callaghan's 5 per cent wage ceiling and indeed his policy of pay restraint.

Mr Callaghan had privately let it be known that he would resign if the leftwingers undermined him. In the event, he did not do so, but defiantly stuck to his incomes policy.

In his speech, Mr Callaghan begged the unions to curb wage demands, or else his Chancellor, Denis Healey,



Callaghan in 1978

would have to put up taxes, introduce hire purchase controls and cut public spending. Delegates grudgingly gave him a standing ovation but paid no heed. Cartoonists pilloried him as King Canute, with a militant tide engulfing the party.

There was to be no general election that autumn. Callaghan had decided. After the "winter of discontent", as striking unions defied the pay norm, he lost to Margaret Thatcher at the polls the following May.

Labour's internecine strife was to intensify before Neil Kinnock began the party's long recovery.

Every year, millions saved from red tape, millions more into breast cancer treatment already under new Labour. The values will remain.

From next April, the two-tier NHS of the Tories will go for good. And I tell you, I will never countenance an NHS that departs from its fundamental principle of healthcare based on need, not wealth. The hospitals will be built. Fourteen of them, the biggest hospital building programme in the history of the NHS. It will mean an extra £1.3 billion in 14 towns and cities, serving five million people. And as of today, it is 15.

But money is not the only problem with healthcare in Britain. The NHS itself needs modernisation and hard choices. We appointed the first

change to the way we treat each other as citizens of our society. I tell you: a decent society is not based on rights. It is based on duty. Our duty to each other. To all should be given opportunity, from all responsibility demanded. The duty to show respect and tolerance to others.

I make no apology. I back zero tolerance on crime. I back powers to tackle anti-social neighbours; to make parents responsible for their children; to overhaul the youth justice system so that youngsters stop thinking they can commit a crime, get a caution and carry on being a criminal. At every level of the fight against crime — today acting on serious organised crime — this new Labour Government is taking it on. But to those who say it's

“We are sorting out the public finances. Borrow only for investment. Hold debt down. Earn before you spend. Don't live on tick. I want this to be the Government that ended Tory boom and bust for ever”

Minister for Public Health because the health service should not lose millions every year because of avoidable illnesses like those from smoking. Barriers between GPs, social services and hospitals must be broken down.

Hospitals cannot stand still. Increasingly, general hospitals will provide routine care, supported by specialist centres of excellence in treatment, research and education. GPs and nurses will do more of what hospitals used to do, often working on the same site in partnership with chemists, dentists, opticians and physiotherapists. New technology

all a threat to our civil liberties. I say the threat to civil liberties is of women afraid to go out, and pensioners afraid to stay in their own homes because of crime. And when we give opportunities to people, we can demand responsibility.

And we cannot say we want a strong and secure society when we ignore its very foundation: family life. This is not about preaching to individuals about their private lives. It is addressing a huge social problem. Attitudes have changed. The world has changed. But I am a modern man leading a modern coun-

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Sex scenes in television soap operas treble in three years

Parents are worried about children being exposed to violence and bad language, reports Carol Midgley



Incest scene: Nat and Georgia Simpson in *Brookside*

The number of sex scenes in television soap operas has trebled in three years. More than one in five scenes in *Emmerdale*, *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* now has a sexual content.

The increase, which is reported by the Broadcasting Standards Commission, comes despite growing concern among parents about the amount of sex, bad language and violence in soap operas shown before the 9pm watershed.

In 1993 sex accounted for less than 8 per cent of scenes in soap operas, but by 1996 this had risen to 23 per cent. Parents often use the plots of soaps as a vehicle for discussions with their children.

A gay kiss between Tony Hills and his lover, Simon, in BBC's

EastEnders and an incestuous scene between Nat Simpson and his sister, Georgia, in Channel 4's *Brookside* last year caused a large number of complaints. The Independent Television Commission ordered Channel 4 to broadcast its adjudication about *Brookside*.

Emmerdale, which five years ago was more concerned with fast-food prices than sex, now has lesbian lovers and extramarital affairs.

The findings, based on a sample of 1,026 viewers last year, also found that swearing was now prevalent in four out of every ten programmes on British television. Sixty-four per cent of adults believed there was too much violence, 55 per cent believed there was too much swearing and 41 per cent that there was too much

sex. Programmes such as *The Bill*, *Silent Witness* and *Thief Takers*, and films such as *Reservoir Dogs*, contained unacceptable levels of violence, the survey found.

It suggested that viewers had become more sensitive to violence since the Dunblane massacre: 64 per cent of those polled in 1996 said the one issue causing them most concern was television violence, compared with 55 per cent in 1995.

The commission also reported a growth in violence broadcast before the watershed, with significant incidents from 7pm on. "It is clear that, while the viewing public believes broadcasters act responsibly in most matters, there is some concern about perceived levels of violence on television," Lady Howe of

Aberavon, the commission chairman, said.

"Next year the commission will publish a revised code on standards of taste and decency. The monitoring report, together with the other research undertaken by the commission, will be an important source of material."

The commission's findings are strongly at odds with BBC figures on violence. The corporation said that a recent survey which it had carried out showed there was very little violence on BBC television. "Most of the violence registered in the report is either sport, 'action' movie violence or cartoons," it said.

A BBC spokesman said that the corporation continually took account of audience sensitivities

through research and monitoring. There is general acceptance that the 9pm watershed — in which we share responsibility with parents — works well."

He added that the corporation was committed to undertaking further research with other broadcasters into public attitudes. An ITV spokeswoman said: "There appears to be a discrepancy between the report and the one we are undertaking. Initial indications are that only 14 per cent of people consider violence to be a major concern."

Channel 4 and the Independent Television Commission have not assessed the BSC's report findings yet and were not able to comment.

Television, page 47

Lesbian couple win equal rights to company perks

EQUAL employment rights for homosexuals are likely to be enshrined in European law after the European Court of Justice issued an interim finding yesterday in favour of a British woman whose lesbian partner was denied free travel perks by her rail employer.

In a case that tested lesbian rights on a European level, the court's advocate-general ruled that Lisa Grant, an employee of South West Trains, was the victim of sexual discrimination because Jill Percy, her partner of five years, was refused £1,000-a-year travel benefits. The company gives the benefit to spouses or unmarried partners of the opposite sex.

A full court decision is expected at the end of the year. In 85 per cent of cases, the judges follow the advocate-general's finding.

Gay organisations hailed the court opinion as a big step towards banning discrimination against homosexuals. "This is an historic day for lesbian and gay rights, not just in this country, but in the whole of the European Union," said Stonewall, an organisation which cam-

Gay groups have welcomed a landmark ruling in the European court, Charles Bremner reports

paigns for homosexual rights and helped to take Ms Grant's case to the court. If the court upholds the initial opinion, companies across Europe will be forced to review their rules on benefits, including pensions and healthcare.

The court finding was a victory, too, for Cherie Booth, QC, the Prime Minister's wife, who pleaded Ms Grant's case before the 15 judges last July. In a passionate speech, she argued that "the right to human intimacy is a basic human right and, I would suggest, a fundamental human need."

The opinion was an embarrassment for the Government, which had sent lawyers to

Luxembourg to argue that the case should not be made the basis for "stretching" European Union law to guarantee equal treatment of homosexuals.

British officials said yesterday that the Government "deplores unfair discrimination and welcomes the fact that many employers include sexual orientation in their equal opportunity policies", but it did not feel that the Treaty of Rome's article 119, the law used by Ms Grant, covered sexual orientation. The article commits EU states to ensuring that "men and women receive equal pay for equal work".

Michael Elmer, the advocate-general, accepted Ms Booth's argument that the case amounted to simple sexual discrimination under article 119 because, if Ms Grant had been a man living with a woman, his effective pay would have been higher because he would have benefited from the travel perk.

"The grant of the benefit in question depends upon the gender of the employee, in as much as employees must be of the opposite sex to their cohabitants," Mr Elmer's opinion



Jill Percy and Lisa Grant yesterday after their European court victory against South West Trains

said. "Gender is thus, objectively, the factor that leads to discrimination relating to pay against a particular group of employees."

The court official set out a robust argument urging the court to ensure that homosexuals enjoyed equal treatment under the law with heterosexuals. "It is the rule of law in the community that the court must safeguard; it is not its task to watch over questions of morality."

A court summary of his

opinion added: "There was nothing in the EU's treaties to indicate that the right not to be discriminated against on the basis of gender should not apply to homosexuals, to the handicapped, to persons of a particular ethnic origin or to persons holding particular religious views."

Ms Percy, speaking on behalf of Ms Grant, said yesterday: "We have changed the law for 35 million people, which is unbelievable. We knew we were changing the

law, it has been a hard campaign, but well worth it." Ms Percy, 38, who works as a nurse in Winchester, thanked Ms Booth for her work.

OutRage!, the gay rights pressure group, noted that most British employers already operated "gender-neutral" policies on perks, but a final ruling in Ms Grant's favour would force them all to fall into line. Such a decision would create new jurisprudence.

The Christian Institute, bas-

tion of traditional family values, said the ruling "does violence to the wording of the Equal Treatment Directive and to the sensibilities of the British people".

After a final decision, the case will go back to the Southampton industrial tribunal which had sought the European ruling. If the European judges back her case, Ms Grant, 30, who works as a telephone information operator for the railway, can expect to get her free tickets.

Homework club for gay pupils criticised

By RUSSELL JENKINS

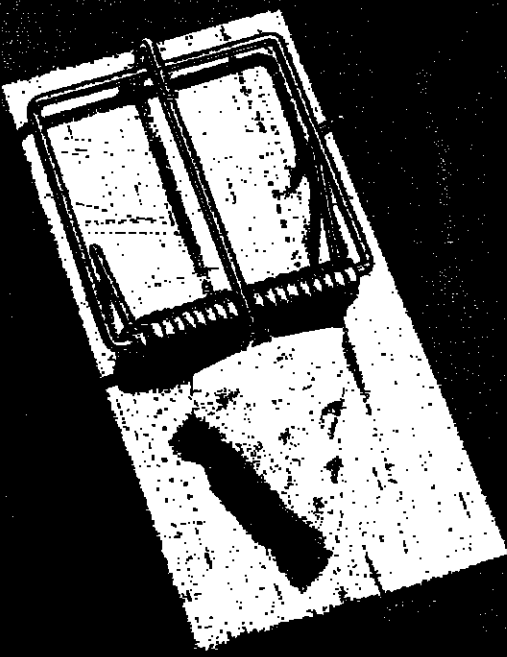
TEACHERS' unions yesterday criticised the imminent launch of a homework club for gay pupils as young as 14 in the Manchester area.

The scheme will encourage homosexual teenagers from 14 to 20 to study together on weekends at the Manchester Gay Centre. Its organisers say they aim to provide a supportive environment for young gay students after complaints from some that their work is suffering because of classroom prejudice towards their homosexuality.

Youth workers are also expected to introduce discussions on sexual health education, homosexual and bisexual culture, and ways of coping with homophobia. The project is being set up by Peer Support Group, which is backed by the National Youth Agency.

However, teachers and headmasters' unions said it was wrong to drag sexuality into the classroom. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "This all underlines the need to keep sexuality out of the classroom and out of schools. I do not see what sexuality has to do with homework."

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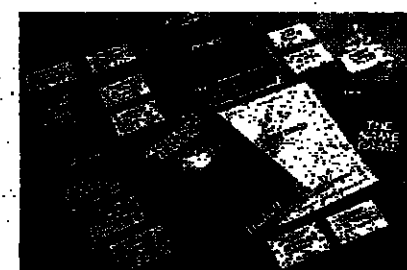
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Friend of murdered nurse points finger at accused Britons

A FRIEND of Yvonne Gilford, the murdered Australian nurse, alleged last night that the British woman accused of her death was almost certainly guilty.

Rosemary Kidman, an Australian who was also a nurse at the Saudi hospital where the killing took place, said Deborah Parry had scratches and bruises on her body after the murder and two clumps of hair were missing from her head.

Ms Kidman said on Australian television that she believed both Parry and Lucille McLauchlan were responsible for Gilford's death. "I feel they were very much guilty, and everybody at the hospital feels that also, over there in Dhahran, and we took a lot to come to that," she told the Channel Seven Witness programme. Both the British nurses insist that they are innocent.

Ms Kidman said Parry had fallen out with Gilford, 38, six weeks earlier. On the night of the murder, Ms Kidman, who shared a car with Parry and a key to her room, popped in for a chat and to read a letter she had received from a mutual friend. "I didn't stay long

Australian says Parry became anxious after killing, reports Roger Maynard

because I knew she had a long day and I thought she must just want to relax," Ms Kidman said. She was apparently the last person to see Parry before the murder.

"I knocked on her door and she had already changed into her nightie and dressing gown at that stage, and I just read the letter from my friend to her, and quickly there was a discussion and I went home. She was calm and I really couldn't have picked anything at that stage," Ms Kidman added.

After news of Gilford's violent death spread around the hospital, she said that Parry was very erratic. She did not want to work and was "very anxious". Another

friend saw her waving her arms around, Ms Kidman claimed.

Asked about their confessions, Ms Kidman said she could not understand that. "In Saudi Arabia, if you didn't do it, no matter what was dangled in front of you, you don't ever confess to anything."

"Debbie had asked me during that week, 'What do I do if they question me?' I said, 'Debbie, you are innocent, you are honest, you don't have to worry'."

Ms Kidman told the programme that later she had been informed that Parry had a large bruise on her hip and scratches on her hands. The accused British nurse explained to friends that she had been scratched by her cat and suffered the bruising during a hiking trip.

Ms Kidman said she began seriously to suspect Parry as the woman who killed Gilford when her hairdresser reported that the Briton was missing some hair.

"Debbie had two chunks of hair missing out of the top of her head," she said. "Apparently, Debbie made some reasoning that she had tried to cut it, but she was happy with her haircut, she told me."



Rosemary Kidman, speaking exclusively on Australia's Channel Seven Witness programme

Relatives of Deborah Parry claim the post-mortem examination on Gilford revealed some light-coloured hair in her hand, including one strand of 1.5in length. Parry's hair is short and dark, while McLauchlan has long, curly black

hair. This has brought speculation that a third party may have been involved in Gilford's death.

Asked about claims of a lesbian relationship between Gilford and the two British nurses, Ms Kidman dismissed the report as "grasping

at straws". She said she had spoken up because most of the women at the King Fahd Hospital did not want the British nurses to get off the hook and go home after a couple of years in jail for "such a horrific crime".

Computer firm sued over 2000 date 'bug'

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

IN WHAT could prove to be precedent-setting lawsuit involving the "millennium bug", a grocery store owner in Michigan has sued a computer company because his cash registers cannot handle transactions that contain reference to the year 2000.

The "millennium bug" is software snag that causes computers to reject credit cards while expiring in 2000, treating them as having expired in 1900.

According to Mark Yarsiko, owner of Produce Palace International in Warren, Michigan, all of his cash registers break down when a checkout operator tries to process a credit card with an expiry date in 2000 or beyond. As a result, he says, his sales dropped by at least 10 per cent.

He is suing the company which developed his software as well as the one which sold him the system. Although his damages claim is for only \$150,000 (£90,000), the case could herald a flood of "millennium bug" actions as 200 approaches.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Baby beheaded in Algerian massacre

Paris: Algerian newspapers reported that more than 60 civilians were killed in further massacres in Algeria and that government troops had killed 40 Muslim rebels. Among ten children reported killed, the newspaper *El Watan* said, was an eight-month-old baby whose head was found on a roof of the family home and his body in the kitchen oven. The massacres were blamed on the extremist Armed Islamic Group (GIA). A statement issued in the group's name last week said the killing of civilians was blessed as God's work and should continue.

Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, described the situation as "awful terror and scandalous violence against civilians". News of the killings came only hours before the beginning of a ceasefire called by Islamic Salvation Army rebels at midnight last night. (Reuters)

Royal wreath for Amritsar

Delhi: The Queen is to visit the Sikh's holy city of Amritsar this month and lay a wreath at Jallianwala Bagh, the small park where a British general massacred nearly 400 civilians in 1919 (Christopher Thomas writes). This gesture is likely to be welcomed throughout Punjab and could defuse calls for demonstrations demanding an apology. The wreath will be laid at a memorial at the entrance of the park marking the massacre by General Dyer, who returned to Britain in disgrace. Indian commentators have been divided over whether the Queen should apologise, but most mainstream Sikh leaders believe the visit on October 14 should be allowed to pass without trouble. She will be accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Botha in illness plea to Tutu

Cape Town: The former South African President P.W. Botha, left, has refused an order to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is investigating apartheid crimes, saying he is ill. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who chairs the commission, rejected his request to withdraw the order. The penalty for disobeying is two years' imprisonment or a fine. The commission's leader asked for a full medical report, which was supplied by Mr Botha's doctors. (AFP)

Floods in Spain kill five

Alicante: Five people drowned as floods swept through this Mediterranean city and rain shut down air, road and rail traffic. Among the dead were a mother and seven-month-old baby, and an elderly woman whom rescuers had tried to reach as she clung to a street lamp on one of the city's main avenues, state radio reported. All the victims were swept away by floods that followed three days of heavy rains. News reports said several houses had collapsed and many others had been evacuated. Heavy rains also forced the closure of roads in the provinces of Valencia and Murcia, which border Alicante province. All three provinces are popular tourist destinations. (AP)

Minister 'in death squad link'

Madrid: The Spanish Supreme Court yesterday charged José Barrionuevo, a former Interior Minister, and 11 others with being linked to anti-terrorist death squads believed to be responsible for the murder of at least 22 Basque separatists between 1983 and 1987. A judicial source said the court, in closing its investigation, also ruled that Felipe Gonzalez, the former Socialist Prime Minister, Narcis Serra, his deputy, and José María Benegas, the Socialist Basque leader, would not be charged. The other defendants are mainly police officials. (AFP)

Bonino anger over Taleban

Kabul: Emma Bonino, right, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid, ended her three-day visit to Afghanistan and said that she would campaign for increased international pressure on the Taleban. She and 18 others travelling with her were arrested for three hours in the Afghan capital on Monday for filming women in a hospital. "Gross violations of human rights and humanitarian conventions are taking place in the country," she said. (AFP / Reuters)



Artillery duel in Kashmir

Delhi: India exchanged artillery fire with Pakistan, saying "indiscriminate" bombardment from across their ceasefire line in the Himalayas killed at least 15 civilians and wounded more than 30 on the Indian side. "We have retaliated with mortar and field artillery firing after Pakistani troops targeted civilian areas in Kargil," an Indian Army official in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, said. (Reuters)

The sale of two centuries

Rome: A land dispute in Sicily, unresolved for almost two centuries, is about to be settled by the Court of Cassation. The sale of the land in the province of Agrigento was drawn up on June 15, 1816, but the parties fell out over the price. One of the town councils involved has now demanded that the land be handed back. (Reuters)

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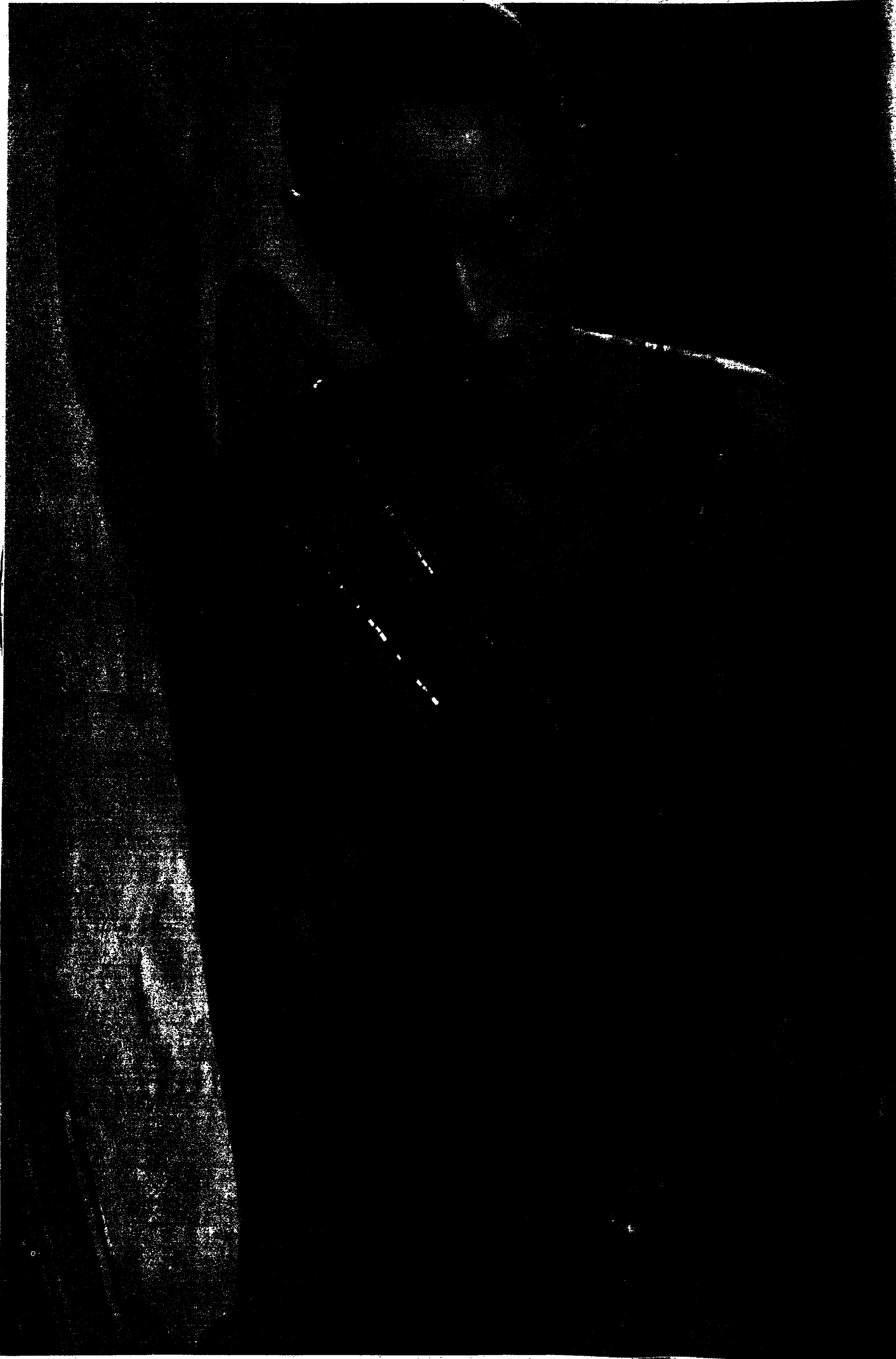
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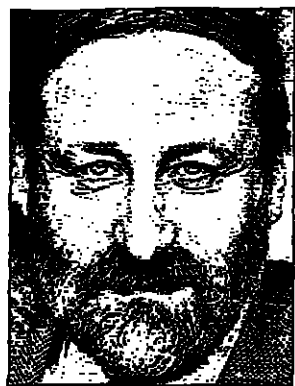


مركز من الامم

PRADA

'Fake' claims put Briton's rewrite of history on ice

THE publication of a book by the British philosopher David Selbourne, purporting to show that an Italian Jewish merchant visited China in 1270, four years before the celebrated arrival of Marco Polo, has been postponed indefinitely by Little, Brown, the New York publishing house, on the ground that the author's documentary sources may be fake.



David Selbourne, left, has had the publication of his latest book postponed, writes Tunku Varadarajan

The book, called *The City of Light*, was due to be published in New York on November 3. It is based on a manuscript said to be written by one Jacob d'Ancona, which gives a vivid account of travels through China, Syria, the Persian Gulf and even India.

According to Mr Selbourne, the original manuscript is in the possession of an elderly Italian Jew who lives near Urbino, who wishes to keep his identity hidden because he fears that his ownership might be questioned in court. He approached Mr Selbourne in 1991 because he "had no trust in disclosing it to an Italian".

The *New York Times* reported yesterday that doubts about the authenticity of the d'Ancona account began to surface once the publishers circulated the manuscript to academics for review.

One expert in Chinese history at Yale University, Jonathan Spence, indicated bluntly that he thought the document was a fake and that he intended to say so in a review for *The New York Times*. That review was to have appeared on October 12, but will not now do so after the decision by Little, Brown to freeze publication.

The d'Ancona manuscript, according to Mr Selbourne's book, describes in detail the Chinese coastal city of Zaitun. There are lively accounts of the city's administration, brigands and ladies of the night.



Polo: travelled to China in 1271-75

manuscript even claims that the merchant participated in a civic debate on whether Zaitun should put together an army to repel the Mongol hordes who appeared intent on invasion. Dr Spence, however, has scoffed at all this. "The intimate description of male and female private parts would not be common in a journal of that time, especially from a religious man," he said.

He also doubted whether a foreigner who was only visiting the notoriously hermetic Chinese society could ever have taken part in a debate on assembling an army. Another

source of doubt was a description of "the incredible noise of a constant number of carriages". Dr Spence pointed out that "this was not an area of sedan chairs and coolies".

Mr Selbourne, however, has come out from his corner fighting. His response has been rasping: "Uncreative academics are always dismissed when a fellow academic writes something which attracts attention and becomes popular or sells."

He described the criticism of his book and the doubts cast on the authenticity of the d'Ancona manuscript as "the product of destructive spite". Addressing some of Dr Spence's complaints, he said: "Jews don't have a puritanical view of sex."

Mr Selbourne has always courted controversy. A lecturer at Ruskin College, Oxford, for many years, he is today a guru for the creed of "communitarianism".

This philosophy, which counts Tony Blair among its followers, emphasises the bond between citizens and civic order. Mr Selbourne advocates "reciprocal duty", whereby the citizen "fulfils his obligation to himself and his fellows, and society fulfils its obligation to the citizen".

Giuliani hits out at poll rival on sleaze

By Tunku Varadarajan

RUDOLPH GIULIANI, the Republican Mayor of New York, has accused Ruth Messinger, his Democrat challenger in November's mayoral election, of pandering to pornographers.

In an increasingly bad-tempered campaign, Mr Giuliani has latched on to remarks made four years ago by Mrs Messinger that sex shops, peep shows and strip clubs could "invigorate a neighbourhood".

Although Mrs Messinger was referring to gay areas of New York, Mr Giuliani has made them the cornerstone of his radio and television commercials. His popularity is based in large measure on what he calls "New York's quality of life", by which he means a clean, safe, pimp-and-pusher-free city.

Playing on his powerful anti-sleaze reputation, one Giuliani commercial intones: "Ruth Messinger says sex shops are an important part of our city's economic and tourism base... give character to our city... fabric to a neighbourhood. And she wants to be Mayor?"

Mrs Messinger has attempted to hit back. A recent press release accuses the Mayor of distorting her words and taking them out of context. "He just keeps lying and lying and lying," the release concludes. Mrs Messinger has also accused Mr Giuliani of sexism and "gender-bashing" and hinted at draft-dodging.

Many observers are surprised, however, by Mr Giuliani's aggressiveness. He is widely believed to have sewn up his re-election, with some opinion polls giving him a 25-point lead. Mrs Messinger's campaign so far has been lacklustre.



Auctioneer Alicia Gordon talking to the mystery bidder as the dress is displayed

Price of Princess's dress soars

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A BLACK velvet evening dress, which once belonged to Diana, Princess of Wales, has been resold at a charity auction for \$200,000 (£124,000), a price more than five times what the seller originally paid.

The dress, snapped up by an anonymous telephone bidder, was sold by Barbara Jordan,

who owns a jewellery boutique in Boston, Massachusetts. She paid \$36,800 for it at the New York auction in June of the late Princess's dresses.

Designed by Bruce Oldfield, the black velvet dress was worn by the Princess in 1985 at the first-night gala performance of *Les Misérables*. The neckline, which plunges as deeply as a Yemenite dagger, was one of the Princess's more daring décolletages. Ms Jordan said yesterday the buyer, believed to live in Florida, would soon reveal her identity. "You will find out, and you will not be surprised who it is. The person just said, 'Stay tuned, it's not over'."

The purchaser is believed to have plans to hold yet another charity auction.

Longing for love, page 17

Sumatra jet 'may not have had black boxes'

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN JAKARTA

THE Garuda Indonesia Airbus 300 that crashed last Friday in north Sumatra, killing all 234 people on board, including two Britons, may not have been carrying voice and flight data recorders, it was claimed last night.

A source within the airline said that Garuda has more aircraft than recorders or black boxes, and allowed aircraft on domestic flights to fly without them. "I wouldn't be surprised if the searchers do not find a black box, as Garuda planes do not always carry them," the source said.

Hundreds of soldiers, accompanied by crash investigators from Airbus and the engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney, have failed to find the black box despite searching every day since the plane came down in a 1,600ft jungle ravine, cartwheeling, slammed into the ground and exploded. Debris was thrown hundreds of yards.

The airline source indicated cost might well be a factor in Garuda's lack of black boxes.

A spokesman for Aérospatiale, the makers of the Airbus, said last night it would be "inconceivable" for an airline to fly such a modern aircraft without the black box. No one from Garuda was available for comment.

Hopes faded yesterday that the remains of a British woman killed in the crash would be identified before a second mass burial. The British Embassy in Jakarta believes the remains of Sally Horsman are among 14 bodies still in a mortuary in Medan, north Sumatra. But it is not confident of identifying her before the authorities decide the bodies must be buried.

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Yea, snakes did crawl forth upon their belly, saith Israeli professor

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SNAKES were once creeping creatures with tiny legs, researchers at Jerusalem's Hebrew University said yesterday after an examination of fossils dating back 100 million years.

According to *The Jerusalem Post*, which described the findings as "revolutionary", researchers believe that the snake fossils — found in a quarry at Ein Yabrud near the now Palestinian-controlled city of Ramallah 25 years ago — originated in the sea, rather than underground.

Should the findings be accepted, they will add scientific backing to the Bible story about Adam and Eve which holds that the snake who tempted Eve to disobey God was punished by being forced to crawl on his belly until the end of time.

The findings will be unveiled by Professor Eitan Tchernov at an international palaeontology conference in Chicago next month.

The snakes of Ein Yabrud, claimed as the most complete and best preserved collection of snake fossils in the world, were discovered by the late Professor George Haas of



The Fall of Man by Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel. Below, the serpent's fate in Genesis iii, 14
14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field: upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat at all the days of thy life.

Hebrew University. He determined that the three fossils were among the most primitive snakes ever encountered. "They also showed the development from the lizard to the snake," said Judy Siegel, an Israeli science journalist. "However, new methods of evolutionary research allowed Tchernov and colleagues to restudy the fossils and reveal characteristics that had previously been ignored." Scientists usually held, she

said, that snakes developed from an unknown group of lizards that lived underground and which — in adapting to their environment — "lost" their legs and acquired their coiling snake form.

But Professor Tchernov argues that the snakes developed from animals that lived in the prehistoric Tethys Ocean which intermittently covered an area that included Israel. Because the Ein

Yabrud fossils sank within a closed bay and were not in contact with oxygen, they were in excellent condition.

Using this as evidence, the Israeli professor claimed that it could now be theorised that their origin was as sea-dwelling lizards and not as land animals.

The Israeli findings have already aroused heated debate among scientists, not all of whom are convinced. They disagree on whether the Ein Yabrud snakes represent the direct ancestors of contemporary snakes, or are representative of one type that did not survive into the modern world.

Professor Tchernov admits that he is unable to prove that all of today's snakes originated in these sea snakes, and that the question is still open.

The Israeli professor, who is hoping to return soon to the original Ramallah site with American scientists to seek new palaeontological finds, claimed that the matter would become clearer in the next few months when he completes his study of the third and last of the Ein Yabrud fossils using modern scanning methods. These will permit a full description of the inside and outside of the fossil.

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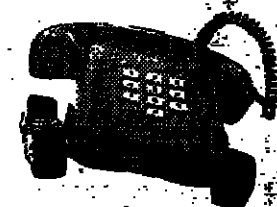
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French Church repents of sin against Jews

IN AN act of historical atonement, the French Roman Catholic Church yesterday offered a formal apology for the failure of its bishops to condemn the persecution of Jews during the Nazi occupation.

The repentance was delivered by Bishop Olivier de Berranger on the site of the notorious Drancy rail transit camp on the outskirts of Paris, where most of the 75,000 Jews deported from France were held before being sent on to Auschwitz.

Confessing before assembled Jewish leaders that the Church's silence during the deportation had been a sin, Mgr de Berranger said: "We acknowledge that the Church in France failed in its mission as an educator of consciences, and that thus it carries with the Christian people the responsibility of not having helped from the first moments, when protest and protection were possible and necessary, even if later there were innumerable acts of courage."

He went on: "This failing of the French Church and its responsibility towards the Jewish people is part of its history. We confess this sin. We beg God's pardon and ask the Jewish people to hear these words of repentance."

Henri Hajdenberg, president of France's largest Jewish

French Catholics have confessed their error in not opposing the dispatch of Jews to Auschwitz in the Vichy period, write Ben Macintyre and Susan Bell in Paris

organisation, described the speech as "a turning point".

The timing of the apology was selected for maximum symbolic effect: 57 years after the first anti-Jewish laws passed under the collaborationist Vichy regime and the day before the Jewish New Year. It also came just a week before the former Vichy official, Maurice Papon, faces charges of war crimes in Bordeaux, although the Church insisted there was no intended link with that trial.

Mgr de Berranger called the gesture "a purification of

memory" on the eve of the millennium. Church officials said the apology was intended to highlight the failure of most bishops to condemn anti-Jewish discrimination during the Second World War, and the Church's history of denigrating Jews that helped to sow the seeds of anti-Semitism in France.

The ceremony also drew attention to the tradition of silence surrounding France's wartime role that has prevailed, among political and religious leaders, for the last half-century.

Some priests were active in the Resistance and worked bravely to protect Jews, but the majority of the church leadership followed the official line by supporting the Vichy regime and avoiding confrontation with the Nazi occupiers.

In 1941 the Bishop of Grenoble gave a spring sermon in which he attacked Freemasonry and condemned "that other alien power, no less harmful, of which the Jews offer the most obvious example".

The French historian Fran-



Bishop de Berranger apologising yesterday for the Catholic Church's failure to condemn Nazi targeting of Jews

cois Bedarida said that the official repentance was a sign of "genuine soul-searching" in place of the "specious speeches intended to justify history" that had characterised the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church in the past.

In the highly charged run-

up to the Papon trial, rightwingers have attacked the "hand-wringing" of the Church. "I find it scandalous that people are beating their breasts over something that was done 50 years ago," Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the extreme-right National Front, said.

"It is incredible that people

who were not even born when these events took place have now come forward, flying in the face of historical truth, to demand pardon when we know that the Church in France generally had a compassionate attitude towards those suffering persecution, including the Jews."

Three years ago the Pope called on Catholics to acknowledge the moral failings of the wartime era, and during his visit to France in August he observed that "recognising our weaknesses of yesterday is an act of loyalty and courage that helps to strengthen our faith".

Surge in jobless tally puts pressure on Jospin

By Ben Macintyre

UNEMPLOYMENT surged by nearly 20,000 in France last month, wiping out the improvement of July and increasing pressure on the Socialist Government as it prepares for a national conference on job creation next week.

The number of jobless rose to 3.12 million — or 12.5 per cent — despite signs of growth, according to official figures released yesterday.

In a television interview, Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, said he would push ahead with reducing the working week from 39 hours to 35. But he was cautious on the timing of the move, reflecting a split within the Cabinet over the project.

Government officials have predicted that a reduction of working hours will eventually create more than a million additional jobs, and some unions have threatened strikes unless the measure is brought in immediately and with no loss of earnings.

Employers, who are due to meet union leaders and government officials at an employment conference on October 10, have said they will boycott the meeting if the Government attempts to impose the measure through legislation rather than consultation.

US 'deal' may spare Polanski jail term for under-age sex

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES



Polanski: self-imposed 20-year exile in Paris

THE film director Roman Polanski, who fled the United States after having sex with a 13-year-old, could soon return to America under a deal sparing him jail time, according to reports yesterday.

Details of the deal were not known, but "he is expected to walk free after he surrenders on a fugitive warrant", according to Sam Rubin, a reporter on the Los Angeles KTLA morning news programme. Polanski, the director of *Chinatown*, *Tess* and *Bitter Moon*, confessed in court in 1977 to having illicit intercourse in actor Jack Nicholson's Hollywood home with a girl identified only as Jane Doe.

The crime carried a potential prison term of up to 50 years, but after submitting to a 42-day "diagnostic study" at a California state prison, Polanski fled to Europe on a British Airways flight.

He claimed the judge was

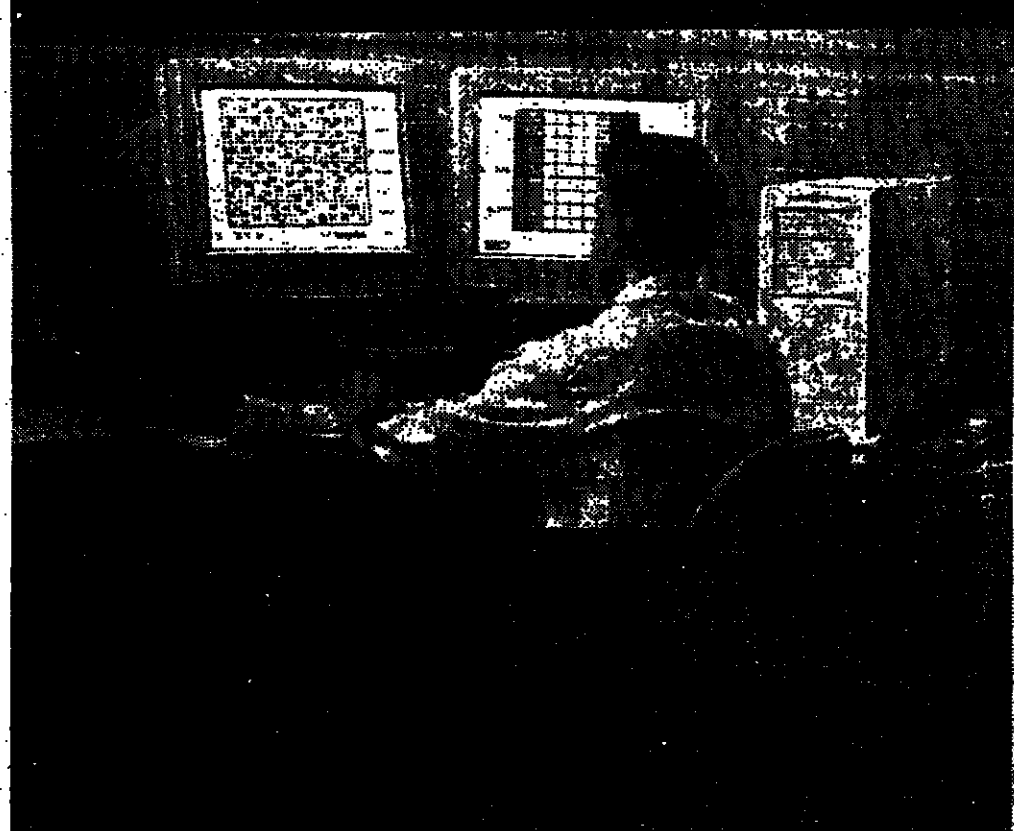
about to renege on an agreement that he serve no more than 90 days.

For the past two decades, Polanski, 63, has lived in self-imposed exile in Paris, making films there but unable to return to America because of an arrest warrant issued by Judge Laurence Rittenband. The warrant remains valid even though the judge has died.

Two meetings have been held between Polanski's lawyers and the Los Angeles district attorney handling the case. "We've been told by very reliable people that a deal was discussed and the woman — now 33 — doesn't mind" if Polanski returns without a jail sentence, Rubin said. Lawyers on both sides refused to comment yesterday.

Ms "Doe" now lives in Hawaii with her young family, having had her civil lawsuit against Polanski settled out of court.

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Diana's



Playtime: Dr Samuel Gruber, a marine biologist from Miami University, insists in a new television documentary that sharks are simply misunderstood

Swimming with sharks

David Charter finds himself captivated after a very close encounter with some of the ocean's most feared killers

The diving-boat cut its engines and we dropped anchor between two dark shadows of coral. These warm Atlantic waters, off Long Island in the southern Bahamas, are home to the most beautiful marine life anywhere in the world.

But we have not travelled here for tropical fish. This spot, three miles from the place Columbus called "the world's most beautiful island", is Shark Reef. Discovered a little over 20 years ago, the reef seems a natural gathering place for the ocean's most feared killers, and provides an ideal opportunity to observe

their behaviour at close quarters. Convention usually has it that when someone cries "shark!" everyone races from the water. Not here. In the Bahamas, swimming with sharks is the sub-aqua equivalent of a freefall parachute jump. There is no cage, no chain mail (in some locations shark divers wear a 35kg suit of armour) and no escape route. At Shark Reef, it is just you and Jaws.

A shriek went up from one of the dozen German passengers on our boat. A dorsal fin had cut the surface inches from the diving platform and the flash of steely grey skin sent a chill from my mask to my flippers. I have to admit, I wanted to back out.

I was here thanks to the theories of Dr Samuel Gruber, a marine biologist from Miami University, who insists in a new documentary, *The World of Sharks and Barracudas*, that these denizens of the deep are simply misunderstood. "From an analysis of shark attacks, it is very clear that feeding plays a very small role," says Dr Gruber. "In up to 75 per cent of incidents there is no removal of tissue, only laceration, so it is clear that social factors such as territoriality play a big part."

I was not terribly reassured. I knelt on the deck of the boat, not praying exactly, but obsessively checking my scuba gear. Admittedly, the statistics tell a very different tale about sharks from the one that their voracious man-eating image suggests.

Several of the 300 species are at risk of extinction because of the insatiable demand of the Far East for shark soup. A staggering 30 million sharks were caught last year for their meat, hide and jaws — three million for every person they killed. In this light, the odds on surviving Shark Reef seemed a little healthier.

By way of further reassurance, Peter Kuska, co-owner of the Stella Maris Hotel and scuba centre on Long Island, whose divers discovered Shark Reef, says there have been only a few incidents involving tourists. One cameraman enjoyed a remarkable close-up, only to discover teeth marks afterwards in his transparent flippers. Another's camera flash annoyed the subject so much that it bit it off. But the main human victims of the Caribbean Reef Shark are spear fishermen. The predators are attracted by vibrations of injured fish, and when one fisherman recently refused to let go of his catch, the shark decided to settle the matter by force, taking with it the man's skin from below the elbow, like a glove.

"Where are our shark divers?" calls Smithy, the dive-master in charge of our expedition. Smithy is taking down two customers today — myself and a large German on his honeymoon who looks like Clark Kent. "Put an extra weight on your belt," Smithy instructs us. "We want you to go straight down."

Not long ago, a shark "bumped" a diver whose weight belt slipped off as she entered the water, leaving her flailing close to the surface. Bumping is a well-documented prelude to biting but, fortunately, an alert dive master bailed her out.

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By Phone: Call 0990 334 000 for your nearest Click Group studio. Lines are open 24 hours a day. Take four differently numbered tokens and the application form to your sitting to validate your free portrait. Appointments must be made by October 25, 1997.

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A £15 fully refundable booking deposit will be requested at the time of booking. Cancellations must be made within 24 hours of your sitting. No cash alternative for this offer is available.

When a food bucket was lowered from the boat, the sharks' behaviour changed dramatically. The ten serene swimmers became a scrum of fins and tails as they fought each other in a feeding frenzy. The bucket dropped to the floor in a billowing cloud of sand as the creatures swooped. We were just yards from the mêlée struggling to see through the sand, when a 4ft shark torpedoed out from the pack, parting Clark Kent's hair. No one could offer an explanation, but it was an astonishing reminder of the creatures' lightning speed — and our own vulnerability.

The bucket empty, the sharks renewed their patrol, until Smithy harpooned a fish, a yellow-tailed snapper, just 6in long. The sharks reacted as though electrified. Smithy stuck the spear into the sand as two predators shot over to pounce. In a flurry the attack was over and the little fish was gone. The feeding finished, the stars of the show began to drift off into the deep as enigmatically as they had emerged. Just 20 minutes before.

I realised that, during the whole encounter, I had not seen one shark with its mouth open. It all happened so breathlessly fast. And, from the moment I reached the bottom, I had not felt in danger of attack, simply awestruck. Maybe Dr Gruber has a point and sharks are misunderstood after all.

"In Western civilisation, we think of sharks as the embodiment of evil," he says in *The World of Sharks and Barracudas*. "We talk about 'loan sharks' and we call lawyers sharks. This is to ignore the fact that sharks are one of the oldest, most well-adapted and amazingly beautiful of all creatures."

Admittedly, they do attack and kill humans, but rarely. We love elephants, but they kill more humans every year than sharks do. So there must be something deeper, something psychological, about our instinctive fear.

● The *World of Sharks and Barracudas* features in *Shark Week* on Discovery Channel, running from October 5 to 10. The author travelled with *Sport Abroad* and was a guest of Stella Maris Hotel, Long Island, Bahamas.

Hotbed of Tory gossip

WE ARE being had: we are meant to be falling for the story that there is a real ding-dong going on over Master Hague's sleeping arrangements at the Tory conference next week. Scandal is in the air: rumour has it that he and his fiancée are planning to share a room: the blue-rinse brigade is out in force.

Well, William Hague has a lot to gain from orchestrated whispering about his louché behaviour. He needs for us all to be thinking he's having it away with the fair Fiona non-stop. And that's not just to quell earlier rumours that he knew the words to all the old Judy Garland numbers, but also as proof of his youth and coo. A public display of celibacy would not be striking the right note of muscular virility. A so-called friend put it about that the happy couple were saving each other until they married: no wonder the double-bed strategy has been so swiftly wheeled out.

A case of 'affluenza'

WE USED to call it retail therapy: now it's termed a disease and we are all, apparently, suffering from it. The symptoms include "a manic compulsion to spend money" and an addiction to shopping. The name of the illness is "affluenza" and, please God, may I be rich enough to contract it soon.

How to be an Italian

HEAVY-DUTY investigation and long-term surveillance have revealed that there is a thriving business these days in fraudulent Italian passports. I can believe it. As a passionate Italophile, I am pained by having to answer "not really" to the question "Are you Italian?" If I could buy citizenship to the land of la Lollo and la bella Sophia, I would go in for dual nationality pronto.

Facing up to the facts

I FEEL I should retract some of the comments I made last week about the uncomeliness of Edwina Currie. I saw her on *Eye Eye Blues* on Sunday night and suddenly saw that, actually, she was quite attractive. It was foolish of me to overlook the celebrated allure of the *jolie laide*. I'm sorry: no more face fascism.

Loneliness is just one problem

And it is a fairly common problem for seafarers away from home for months at a time. But it is one of the troubles that people bring to us. As a Christian society working among seafarers we are asked for all kinds of help — spiritual, emotional, social and practical.

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Diana's longing for true love

In our final extract from **Andrew Morton's Diana: Her True Story - In Her Own Words**, he says the Princess's image of sophisticated glamour merely masked her innermost need for someone to cherish her

As divorce negotiations picked up pace after the Queen's intervention in December 1993, Diana formed a strong bond with Maggie Rae, her legal adviser. Maggie, a former flatmate of Cherie Blair, is a great friend of the Princess and, encouraged by Diana, agreed to act as an informal conduit between the Princess and the Opposition leader. Tony Blair instinctively realised that Diana had outstanding potential. "She was the face of the youthful new Britain he wanted to build," recalls a Blair aide. But great care had to be exercised in arranging face-to-face contacts as any leak would have been politically embarrassing.

On becoming Prime Minister in May, Mr Blair had the opportunity to employ Diana's obvious talents officially, organising a weekend summit at Chequers, the Prime Minister's country retreat. While Prince William played football with the Blair boys, the Princess and the Prime Minister talked through the details of her informal ambassadorial role. Diana was delighted, remarking later: "I think at last I will have someone who will know how to use me."

What impressed the Prime Minister most was her gift for going to the heart of a difficult issue without unduly raising political hackles. As he said after her death: "She had a tremendous ability to enter into an area that could have been one of controversy and clarify what was the right thing to do. That was an extraordinary attribute and I felt there were all sorts of ways it could have been harnessed."

As with her compact with Mr Blair, her involvement with the landmine issue was a case of the right pitch at the right time. By happy coincidence, her friend Lord Attenborough, the film director, invited Diana to a charity premiere of his film *In Love and War*, a moving documentary about the havoc wreaked by landmines on civilians, at the same time as the Director-General of the British Red Cross, Michael Whitlam, was visiting Kensington Palace to try to secure a renewed commitment to the charity.

The film, which focused on the work of the Red Cross, captured Diana's imagination, and she agreed to help to

raise funds in the campaign to rid the world of landmines. She also decided to accompany Red Cross officials and a BBC film crew to publicise the work of the charity in Angola. It was, as Diana would have put it, a "very grown-up" assignment.

At a meeting at Kensington Palace before she flew to Africa, the Princess expressed her concern that her actions could be seen as political. Lord Attenborough recalled: "She was aware that there were

planned: 'Who would take me on? I have so much baggage. Anyone who takes me to dinner has to accept that their business will be taken over in the papers. I am safer alone.'"

It was an unhealthy situation, compounded by her emotional nature. The Princess craved the warmth and companionship that she had been so long denied. Locked into a cool and distant marriage for most of her adult life, she was forced to channel her affections elsewhere. So she was overly protective of her boys in the way of many single mothers, overly familiar with her staff because she was lonely, and unnervingly open with total strangers in her charity work.

Her image of sophisticated glamour and unapproachable sexuality merely masked her innermost need for a man to cherish her. Unwanted as a baby, unloved as a wife, she simply desired a man whom she could rely on. Yet all Diana had known was a romantic life of betrayal and disloyalty. She was rejected by Prince Charles, her former bodyguard Barry Marmack, whom she counted on, was tragically killed. James Gilbey's friendship was viciously exposed in the Squidgygate tapes; while her lover, Captain

James Hewitt, sold his story. Her friendship with former England rugby captain Will Carling ended when his wife, Julia, a television personality, blamed her for the break-up of their marriage, while her relationship with art dealer Oliver Hoare ended abruptly after a police investigation into a series of nuisance telephone calls to his home.

It was only her friendships with Dr Hasnat Khan, a heart surgeon, and property developer Christopher Whalley that seemed to escape unscathed. Her reluctance to leap wholeheartedly into a full-blown love affair was unsurprising.

For in spite of the hurt and betrayal, the Princess retained a romantic vision of her future. "Her head tells her that she would like to be the ambassador to the world, her heart tells her that she would like to be wooed by an adoring billionaire," commented a friend recently. At the same time she was all too aware of the turbulence a fresh union would create. As she once told her husband: "If I fall in love with somebody else, the sparks will fly, and God help us." Uppermost in her mind was her consideration for her sons. Any future suitor had to earn their approval before he could truly win her heart.

Her ruminations about the future were matched by her brooding on the past. With her friends she endlessly discussed whether Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles would ever find happiness together or if he would ever have the courage to give up the throne for the woman he loved.

"He won't give her up and I wish him well," she once told a friend. "I would like to say that to his face one day." As the years passed she began to appreciate that Camilla's loyalty and discretion should be rewarded by the Prince's public acknowledgement of their relationship. Yet that mood all too easily turned to reproach or self-pity as she mourned a lost youth and innocence. So when the Prince made it known that he was to host Camilla's 50th birthday party at Highgrove in July 1997, Diana decided to make herself scarce, accepting a standing invitation from Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, to join him, his wife and their four children at his holiday villa in St Tropez.

For once Diana seemed relaxed and carefree, seemingly oblivious to the watching press as she jet-skied or swam



Comforting a woman in Sarajevo in August. The Princess's landmine campaign was a truly "grown-up" assignment

off the beach in front of Mr Fayed's villa.

Four days into that fateful holiday, the party was joined by Mr Fayed's eldest son, Emad, known as Dodi, who had first met the Princess ten years before, when he played alongside Prince Charles in a polo match. There was little sign of their later intimacy when he was introduced to Diana. Crew members said he bowed and called her "Ma'am", treating her with the deference due her station.

Outwardly, Dodi Fayed was the archetypal playboy. Yet Diana was able to plumb beneath the shallows of his personality to discover qualities that may have reminded her of her first love, Prince Charles. Apart from a mutual love of polo, both men had other striking similarities, living as they did in the shadow of strong, dominating fathers. Those who knew Dodi well say that beneath the veneer of

gentlemanly charm and courtesy, qualities Diana admired in Prince Charles, was a man with sadness in his soul. His sensitivity was attributed to the calamities he had experienced — the deaths of his mother, whom he adored, and of several other close relatives. This combination of suffering and sensitivity was attractive to Diana, who reacted with an intuitive reflex when she saw pain in others.

As important as their personal chemistry was Dodi's relationship with the boys. He rented a disco for two nights so that Diana and her children could dance in private, while those who watched him with William and Harry at La Renaissance bistro in St Tropez noticed that they seemed at their ease in his company.

Mohamed Al Fayed encouraged the budding relationship, unashamedly making clear his ambitions for his eldest son and the world's most famous woman. "I did give them my blessing," he said, as the possibility of linking his dynasty to the upper echelons of British society became tantalisingly close.

All the while Prince Charles's shadow loomed in the background. In a curious

way, his decision to "come out" in public with Camilla by hosting her 50th birthday party seemed to have given Diana permission to be open about her love life, too. Just as her animosity towards Camilla

was draining away, so the friendly balance she had reached with Prince Charles, together with the new direction and success of her public life, all pointed one way — she was not only starting to find

inner peace, but was also prepared for the man she so keenly awaited to enter her life — she was ready for romance.

"Don't worry, I'm not going to elope," she told a friend as she flew off in a Harrods jet for

a cruise off the Sardinian coast alone with the new man in her life. For the first time since her separation, Diana no longer felt the need to hide. She told friends that she felt that in Dodi, so warm, affectionate and endlessly attentive, she had at last found a man who appreciated her for herself, and wanted nothing from her but her own happiness.

Even though she had made no decisions about her future, it was clear to her friends that, for the first time in years, Diana was happy, enjoying herself with a man who obviously cared for her. Yet she felt unhappy about the way he lavished presents on her. It doubtless provoked memories of a childhood in which she wanted for nothing materially but everything emotionally, as well as of her relationship with her late father. He had showered her with presents, but she felt he wasn't there when she needed him. She once recalled an occasion in 1991, when he was flying to Paris to buy her a birthday present. "I don't want that, I want you," she told him.

As whirlwind romances go, the one between Diana and Dodi was a tornado. The couple had spent barely a week alone in each other's company but already Diana's instinctive caution had been overwhelmed by Dodi's obvious affection, his consideration and his sensitivity. With him she didn't feel lonely any more. "Elsa, I adore him. I have never been so happy," the Princess told her friend Lady Elsa Bowker.

She seemed to have it all. Humanitarian success on the world stage, contentment and love in her private life. As she lay on the *Jonikal*, for once the barometer of her heart was set fair. The public sensed that this lonely, vulnerable and rudderless vessel had at last found a safe harbour.

For a few short days she enjoyed that state of grace in a stormy existence. Then the heavens cracked open — and claimed her.

© Andrew Morton 1997
Extracted from *Diana: Her True Story - In Her Own Words* by Andrew Morton, to be published by Michael O'Mara Books Ltd on October 6 at £15.99. To order your copy for £15.99 (p&p is free) call 01403 710851 (lines open Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

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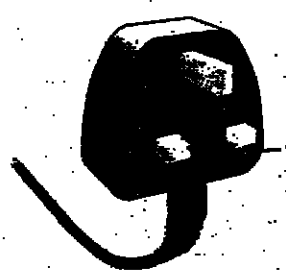
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The making of Tony Blair's conference speech
Pages 22-23

A generation disinherited by disorder

Roger Scruton on Fukuyama's epilogue to the end of history

Francis Fukuyama is famous for telling us that history has ended, and that a bland, capitalist democracy is now spreading across the globe, abolishing the conflicts and strivings for which "history" was the name. Nonsense, of course, but spelt out in cheerful and cultivated accents, to the great amusement of the crowd. Fukuyama went on to argue that capitalist democracy is not, after all, self-sustaining, and depends upon relations of trust that it does not generate. This is far more to the point, as anyone knows who has witnessed the catastrophes of post-communist Russia.

Fukuyama now goes further, and prophesies in his latest book, *The End of Order*, not the end of history, but the end of order. He offers statistics, graphs, and sociological theories, all tending to the same conclusion, which is that the process whereby moral values, self-sacrifice and social order have been passed on from generation to generation has been disrupted. The Great Disruption occurred, Fukuyama claims, around 1967. Since then, the institutions with which our society has maintained itself in being have been rapidly crumbling, and nothing has come to replace them.

The Great Disruption of 1967 left institutions crumbling

The most important of these institutions is marriage. Easy and frequent divorce, a growing irresponsibility towards children, sexual laxity, the entry of women into the workforce on equal terms with men, a welfare system bent on favouring the single mother against the housewife — all these have undermined the habit of marital loyalty. But as to which is cause and which effect, the experts remain divided.

First among the causes, according to Fukuyama, is the contraceptive pill, and the unprecedented sexual freedom that it bestowed. All at once the sacrifice required by marriage ceased to be the price paid for sexual fulfilment. And when the State stepped in, to become the only reliable father to the new generation of babies, marriage was no longer the least costly way of fulfilling the maternal urge.

The evidence overwhelmingly confirms that children raised out of wedlock are more disposed to crime, drug abuse, educational failure and general delinquency than those with a superintending father. The process feeds on itself, with results that are now familiar to us, and which the Home Secretary is bravely and hopelessly trying to remedy.

Young people are emerging who are incapable of passing on to their offspring the accumulation of "social capital", as Fukuyama calls it, simply because they do not possess it. They were never taught to restrain their sexual impulses, and regard marital fidelity as an unacceptable cost. Faced with the choice between staying with their partner for the children's sake, and leaving for their own sake, they take the second option. Being raised in an atmosphere of mutual distrust, they never

acquire the virtues that make people trustworthy. Responsibility, self-sacrifice and duty are alien to them, and law has no real influence over their conduct. They tend to be unemployed, largely because they are unemployable. And when down on their luck they blame the system and loudly call for their "rights".

The odd thing is that it is only now, at the eleventh hour, that the self-appointed experts are prepared to say the obvious, and liberal politicians are prepared to listen. The point was far better made by Burke, who argued that society is not a "social contract" among the living, it is a partnership between the dead, the living and the unborn, and endures only so long as people recognise that they are trustees and not owners of their moral, legal, spiritual and material inheritance. The evil that Burke saw in the idea of "the rights of man" was just this: that it encouraged people to take but not to give, to conspire to seize what they could of the Earth's resources, without respect for their inheritance, and without preparing themselves to pass it on. The enemy was (and remains) the kind of unbridled democracy that sees life as a universal scramble for a fair share of the goods.

Burke was not a lone voice. Throughout the modern age the Roman Catholic Church has preached a social doctrine whose truth is so blindingly obvious that few people have been able to look it in the face. Contraception, abortion, divorce and sexual promiscuity are not, as liberals would have us believe, separate defences against "the tyranny of custom" (as Mill called it). They are interconnected parts of a single disruptive goal — which is to exclude the next generation from our calculations and to leave them to their fate.

But what was so special about 1967? Surely Fukuyama's reference to the contraceptive pill is far too glib. Is it not more significant that 1967 was the year the first generation of television kids entered adulthood? For TV has killed conversation and the art of storytelling — surely one of the principal ways in which moral attitudes are conveyed from one generation to the next. It has incinerated the moral expectations of its viewers, since every TV image legitimises, even when purporting to condemn what it shows, simply by showing the possibility. TV has also neutralised active participation in social life, and replaced it with a passive contemplation in which no moral exertion is required.

Fukuyama is short on responses to the problem — and who can blame him? But one obvious remedy remains, which is to cease describing social changes as though they were inevitable, and to steel ourselves to condemn them.

Francis Fukuyama's *The End of Order* is published by the Social Market Foundation.



With his ringing call for national modernisation, Tony Blair is emerging as the political heir Baroness Thatcher never had

To Thatcher, a son

Blair is relaunching the Tories' unfinished crusade for hard choices

Tony Blair in Brighton yesterday gave the best speech Baroness Thatcher never made. Gone was the waffle of Opposition. Control of audience and occasion was complete. So, too, was the deference paid to the -ism that still hovers over British politics, the -ism that dare not speak its name. Mr Blair is emerging as the political son Margaret Thatcher never had. He is repackaging and relaunching the great enterprise. Yesterday's speech, stripped of its clutter, was a call to a second crusade, a continuation of the modernisation of Britain begun in the 1980s and as yet unfinished. Mr Blair announced another era of "hard choices". No body, not the unions, not the works, not students, not Europe, certainly not the Labour Party, can be allowed to stand in its way. New Labour was an election-winning gimmick. New Labour is really New Thatcher. There is not and never was, any alternative.

The question asked of the country by Mr Blair last May was simple. Would it like him to do to Britain what he had done to the Labour Party? He had brushed away its cobwebs and installed clear and sensible lines of accountability. The public's reply was (I say it again) half-hearted. The crazy arithmetic of the House of Commons should blind nobody to the fact that Labour's popular vote, true indicator of public feeling, was little different from John Major's in 1992. It was the Tory vote that collapsed. Mr Blair is not, as he claimed yesterday, a majoritarian Prime Minister. His much-lauded mandate rests on less than 50 per cent electoral support.

The more reason, he might have argued, for playing safe. After 18 years in Opposition, the Labour Cabinet could well have rested. Mr Blair's ministers could jog round the field, get used to their boots and learn the name of the coach. In Opposition, his interest in policy seemed limited. His speeches were so empty as to make even Paddy Ashdown's a model of precision. Asked to tell of socialism's "language of priorities", Mr Blair replied that those in Kenneth Clarke's last Budget seemed good enough for him. The electorate was offered a pig in a poke. Having bought by Mr Blair that the pig would stay hidden for a year or two. Yesterday there was no such complicity. The Government made two

early decisions of great significance. The first was to note and avoid the initial mistakes made by the most recent "revolutionary" administration, those of Harold Wilson in 1964 and Margaret Thatcher in 1979. The last period of Labour rule ended with James Callaghan pathetically lecturing his party that governments could not get out of trouble by cutting taxes and increasing spending. "I tell you in all candour that this option no longer exists," he cried. He was right, but too late.

Mrs Thatcher preached the same message, yet promptly ignored it. In 1979 she cut taxes and increased spending, buying off her old allies among farmers, the police, the Armed Forces and even the civil servants. Public spending soared and the Thatcher Cabinet tore itself apart for half a decade, struggling to bring expenditure under control.

Mr Blair's decision to stick within the Tory spending targets was far more than a device of convenient discipline. He made it seem unavoidable, and then named his closest colleague and potential rival, Gordon Brown, as custodian of this (Tory) discipline. By crudely freezing spending the Cabinet saved itself a year of internecine strife. But the Chancellor must soon join battle over the next public spending review, with loyalty to the targets wearing thin. He, rather than Mr Blair, must then be their defender.

Mr Brown's speech on Monday was extraordinary, not just for his merciless teasing of spending colleagues. He went back over the painful lessons of the 1970s. He told the party that "irresponsible" pay demands were out of the question. "You cannot build a new Jerusalem on a mountain of debt," he said. Mr Brown has brought back the old monetarist theorem, that central bankers cause inflation and unions cause unemployment. For the first time in memory a Chancellor has pinned not one but both these maxims firmly on their

subjects. If Labour wants full employment, he chided his audience, only the unions stand in the way. This is 18-certificate politics. Mr Blair, I noted, did not mention Mr Brown yesterday, despite accolades to John Prescott, Mo Mowlam and David Blunkett. A shrewd leader always distances himself from his Chancellor. If Mr Blair is to be President, someone else has to be skintight Prime Minister. Someone has to smash hopes, shred morale, spill blood and hack compromise. Mr Blair may preach neo-Thatcherism. He may sell the "hard choices" crusade like a New Age religion. But he is the salesman. Mr Brown is the one who must practise in the corridors what Mr Blair preaches in the pulpit. And if the crusade founders... dear Gordon, a nice man, such a pity.

So far, so Machiavellian. But what was also clear yesterday is that Mr Blair has no intention of putting his Government's reputation for radicalism in hock to the Treasury. The two substantive reforms on which he has embarked, to the constitution and to the welfare state, are now irrevocable. I doubt if anyone in government has an inkling of what it may have unleashed in Scotland or Wales, let alone when elected mayors are the norm in every city in the land. This is not just the reversing of a decade of Tory centralism. Britain is to get a dose of constitutional innovation that could mean widespread political opposition to any government in London. For a new administration, this shows confidence and courage.

More courageous must be the decisions soon to emerge from Labour's review of the welfare state. Britain must have pinched itself hearing some of Mr Blair's loaded asides yesterday. He ridiculed housing benefit as "designed for fraud". He dismissed criticism of his plan for students' fees. His phrase, "rights come with responsibilities", is familiar right-wing code. It means workfare in some shape or form. As for the emphasis on teaching stan-

Simon Jenkins

Alan Coren



A vision of Two Fat Ladies Through The Keyhole

I have had a millennial vision. I hope it will be of some use. In the middle of yesternight, I suddenly found myself no longer in my bed but sitting on a starlit cloud high above this quiescent great capital, and gazing down, I saw a vast dome shimmering like a silver Smartie beside a shimmeringly silver ribbon of river, and all along that river, and all along the thready web of roads spread out around it, I saw a million human dots trudging very slowly towards the dome, from all directions and from as far away as my elevated eyes could see.

More yet, each dot was accompanied by another, some larger than itself, some smaller, which it was pulling, or pushing, or carrying. And, as I craned to peer more closely, I saw that all this shimmering was generated not only by a hundred banks of powerful lights, serving as many television cameras, but also by the effect upon these lights of a hundred plumes of smoke, wafting higher and yon across the halogen beams, from a hundred different and — I could just sniff — fragrant fires.

Blimey, I thought, I know what's brought this on. For I had spent the previous day both bedridden with a febrile condition much conducive to antibiotic visions and, as the result, listlessly channel-hopping all the television that there was; and had thus seen little bits of perhaps 38 different antiques programmes, 47 different animal programmes, 83 different cookery programmes, and getting on for 121 celebrity game shows. For that is all there is on television, these days: which means, more or less, that that is what the culture is.

Having diagnosed which, I let my cloud sink lower, in hope my vision might reveal what all these folk were doing on what, I suddenly twigged. Millennium Night. And saw that New Tony, having by this time made everything The People's Everything, had now made The People's Millennium: and the People were converging on the dome from every cranny of these islands in order to queue up for inclusion on an all-channel television programme called *The Antique Animals Cookery Game*. What they all were pushing and pulling and carrying, I could now see, were their animals: each of some 50 queues had formed behind tables pasted "Dairy Cattle" and "Pancake Mice" and "Talking Birds" and "Prize News", and so on, at which famous experts sat, inquiring how long the owners had had this or that beast, how they had come by it, and, most important, whether they had ever given any thought to how much it was worth. Not, of course, for insurance purposes, but as food. Cameras would then track dramatically in on owners staggered to discover that Dobbin, their elderly Shetland, could bring as much as 50 francs a kilo in Belgium, and that — small birds being so prized an Italian delicacy — a budgie stuffed with pine kernels might go for over two million lire in Positano, even if it had never uttered a single intelligible word.

Any sick animals were, of course, passed on to a horde of glamorous quiz-panels, where chortling celebrities were invited to guess, with wondrous hilarity and innuendo, their ailments, and have their answers judged by a major television vet, who would press a cheery bell if he thought the condition curable by Rolf Harris, and a farty buzzer if he believed the animal should immediately be put down by Anton Rodgers.

This diversion, while both uproarious and heartrending, had the further boon of allowing the necessary time for the most valuable healthy animals to be slaughtered, and then, to the finest piped music, cooked competitively by such as Gary Rhodes, Rick Stein, Delia Smith, Sophie Grigson, Keith Floyd, and as many fat ladies as could safely be mastered on the podium, with wines chosen by Oz Clarke, Jilly Goolden, Jancis Robinson, etc. dab hands all at knowing what goes best with *tabby au vin* and *gerbil supreme*, and eaten, for a major trophy, by a bevy of soap-stars under the incomprehensible stewardship of Loyd Grossman. The vision faded, but the heart stayed high. It will be not merely the most wonderful TV programme there ever was, it will be the truest defining index of our culture, and thus the dome's finest hour, and thus the century's supreme midnight ushers in the new millennium. Whatever that might mean.

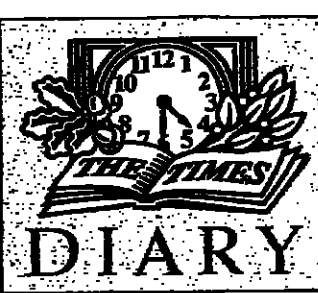
JASPER GERARD

Absent hero

AS Tony Blair enjoys the crisp air wafting around the Metropole Hotel in Brighton, a cooler wind swirls round his constituency house in Sedgefield. A nasty little dispute has split villagers around Trimdon Colliery over security measures to protect the Prime Minister. A private road is being built leading to a car park for security agents that will cut across a public park. This has sparked claims that Blair has bypassed the normal planning process.

Blair has made the long journey north only three times since the general election. This, according to friends, is not entirely due to work pressures: there is fear that Blair's security cannot be guaranteed in the modest little house. His protection squad, meanwhile, is building defences — to block off the front entrance and lay the new road to lead up to an imposing, and impenetrable, security gate, complete with car park for the squad. This has meant cutting a swath through both Blair's garden and the adjoining public playing field. Yet the upheaval has raised barely a murmur on the council. An electoral note: Sedgefield District Council boasts 47 Labour councillors and just two Independents. One such Independent, Donald Fraser, is cross. "There is no debate here," he says. "No one wants to upset Blair, but I always thought it was Labour policy to preserve open places for recreation." Blair, meanwhile, is enjoying weekends at Chequers — far more New Labour.

AS Peter Mandelson managed to appear so cheerful despite his



conference rebuff, I am sure he will not be upset to hear that even his fellow spin-doctor, Alastair Campbell, voted for that surviving lefty warhorse Dennis Skinner. Not upset at all.

Silent protest

YOBBISH behaviour at Harrow School has forced the masters there to ban touchline-chanting at rugby matches. The extraordinary decision, which has sparked off a furious debate on free speech and conditioning by the boys, stems from an incident among Harrow supporters at a recent match against Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood. The scandal now threatens to embrace the new manager of the England rugby squad, who also happens to be the rugby master at Harrow.

Nicholas Bonford, Headmaster, takes up the story: "It was a colts game at home. We have a number of school champions, some perfectly harmless. Others, however, are more tribal. They are inappropriate for a rugby match."

The ban has prompted a hooah on the hill. A campaign has been launched, spearheaded from the pages of *The Harrovian*, the school newsletter. "The ban should be lifted immediately," demands this week's front page. "If Harrow aims to be a civilised institution [sic], then it seems ridiculous to limit what people can say when standing next to a rugby pitch."

The debate is taken up on the letters page. "I see no reason why boys should not be allowed to chant and cheer," states one. "If the powers that be are worried about intimidation then we should play schools that can put up with the noise and give us a good run for our money." Ominously, it is signed "Lagerlout".

THE Saudi Ambassador is paying rapt attention to the press treatment of the accused nurses, not least to coverage in *The Sport*. That journal's typically bracing approach — inciting readers to bombard the embassy with splutterings of outrage — comes with the wrong phone and fax numbers. Truly a blessing from Allah.



Emily Watson: having a high old time in *This Life*

That's life with Emily...

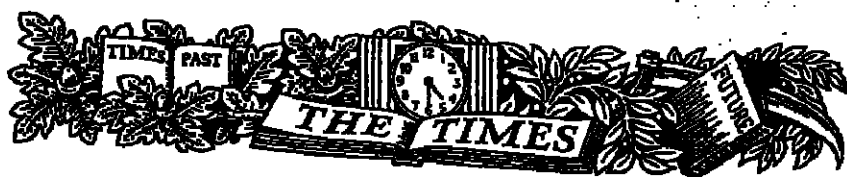
IT is a dubious tribute, perhaps. But Emily Watson, the award-winning actress, is the inspiration for a character in the next series of *This Life*, the earthy BBC saga about London flatmates. It is understood that the newcomers

will continue to enjoy impromptu late-night encounters fuelled by unhealthy toxins. This time, however, the show will feature thespians and other bohemian sorts, not lawyers.

How could so virtuous (and married) an actress bear any resemblance to such characters? The scriptwriter, Mark Ravenhill, was a friend of hers from Bristol University. He is not short of anecdotes. "She's a feisty girl and no one knows her better than Mark," says a friend. Less enthusiastic are Miss Watson's agents: "She has just finished filming with Daniel Day-Lewis and is far too busy to talk."



"Time's a great healer"



FUTURE CONDITIONAL

After the emollient words must come the hard choices

Tony Blair's conference speeches have always been aimed at an audience far beyond the confines of the auditorium. Until this year, though, they were efforts to persuade the British to vote for him. By yesterday he had won people's votes and was demanding more: "enlightened patriotism", or active participation in his efforts to modernise the country. In an inclusive oration, the Prime Minister advertised recruits to his "quiet revolution led by the real modernisers — the British people".

Mr Blair's restlessness is all too apparent. Just five months after a famous election victory, the new Prime Minister could have paused for breath and satisfied himself with the adulation. Instead he took advantage of the post-election euphoria to press the dangers of consolidation and the constant need for change. In this respect he resembles his predecessor but one at No 10. Not only were his homilies on finance familiar. He is also, like Margaret Thatcher, an instinctive radical. Both saw it as their mission to cure the British disease. In the 1970s this was low productivity and poor industrial relations. In the 1990s, it is mediocrity, welfare dependence and cynicism.

After five years of poor government, characterised by weak leadership and national humiliation over the ERM, the British had become embarrassed about their collective identity. Without blaming his predecessor, Mr Blair encapsulated the feeling: "Just another average nation, scrambling around for salvation in the ebbing tide of the 20th century." But the change of Government has given the Prime Minister a chance to harness the latent idealism that burst through after his election victory, and again after the death of Princess Diana.

"We are a giving people," he claimed, and went on in a Kennedyesque flourish: "Give just as much to our country as we intend to give. Make the good that is in the heart of each of us serve the good of all of us." Such an appeal to altruism would have had little chance of success coming from the last

Government. But the country is still in its early throes of infatuation with Mr Blair. This might just work.

Compassion, however, has to have, as the Prime Minister asserted, "a hard edge". And this is where the difficult choices arise. Mr Blair's speech was not just gossamer spun around the warm words of idealism. He talked tough too. The unemployed will have to take the opportunities offered to them. Students will have to pay their way through university. Flexibility in the labour market will remain: he might have added that it will need to increase. Welfare will have to be reformed so that people provide more for themselves, and rely less on the State. In a sentence that could presage a sharp diminution in the insurance cover that Government is prepared to offer the individual, Mr Blair promised "fundamental reform of our welfare state, of the deal between citizen and society". Even the NHS must change. Modernisation will not be costless.

But the critical difference between Mr Blair and Baroness Thatcher lies in their approach to reform. She found it easiest to identify enemies and form a coalition against them. Mr Blair sought out no opponents yesterday, apart from hereditary peers: indeed he insisted that "there is a place for all the people in New Britain, and there is a role for all the people in its creation". His only enemies, in other words, will be faint-hearts, and even they, he thinks, should be ripe for rational persuasion.

At this stage of a Government, the Prime Minister can be excused his optimism. But, apart from student loans, the hard choices have so far only been hinted at. When they are made, there will be opposition, and this most emollient of Prime Ministers will have to pick fights. His enemies will, on the whole, be defending what is hard to defend: hereditary peers' voting rights, middle-class subsidies on higher education, benefits for the worksy. But it is a fair bet that, in two years' time, the normal rules of adversarial political engagement will be back.

WHO CARES?

Dobson should concentrate on ends, not means

Peter Mandelson's humbling at the hands of the membership on Monday suggested that there are limits to how far the party has modernised. Frank Dobson's speech yesterday proved there are limits to how far the Cabinet has modernised. Although the Health Secretary rewrote his speech at the last moment to remove the most obvious concession to vindictive egalitarianism, the plastic surgery could not disguise how little has really changed in Labour's approach to the NHS. Mr Dobson could have used this conference to educate his party's activists in the harsh realities of managing scarce resources; instead he squandered political capital by pandering to Labour's old gods.

The speech Mr Dobson delivered bore the mark of the midnight oil. The need for late-night revision underlines the failure of the Health Secretary to appreciate that he should not be operating a laboratory for ideology but hospitals that deliver care as effectively as possible. A briefing on the eve of his address, trumpeted the Health Secretary's plans to remove from NHS trusts those who use private healthcare. When the text was eventually delivered that pledge was amended to a commitment that "newly appointed members will have to live locally". Whatever prompted Mr Dobson's nocturnal change of heart, his initial impulse reflected a cast of mind which elevated envy above efficiency.

Membership of NHS trusts should depend on the skills individuals bring to management, not their choice of insurance policy. For a Government which has asked the chairman of the Prudential to oversee its

Welfare to Work programme and the chief executive of Barclays to overhaul state benefits, to deny businessmen places on NHS trusts because they use BUPA would be not only hypocritical, but self-defeating. It is by learning from business best practice, in healthcare and elsewhere, that the NHS can deliver care most effectively.

Mr Dobson's U-turn did not, however, signal a broader acceptance of the need to elevate ends above means when delivering public services. Rigidities in NHS staff structures still impede the effective delivery of care, but instead of serving notice on the vested interests Mr Dobson swaddled them in cotton wool. The Health Secretary reserved his criticism for GP fundholders — the men and women within the NHS who have done most to drive up the quality of care for all patients. It has been competition for fundholders' patronage that has forced managers to use resources more wisely and consultants to promote more stringent collective codes of practice. For Mr Dobson to object to an improvement in care for all because some benefit early betrays an attachment not to egalitarian principle, but prejudice against progress.

The Prime Minister, in his reference to the establishment of ten new "health action zones", demonstrated that he was alive to the need to innovate, experiment and modernise the delivery of healthcare. If, however, the same energy and vision his Government has brought to education is to inform health policy, then ministers must learn that they must put patients before structures and that they cannot always be on the side of the angels.

BRUM'S THE WORD

Accent is as useless an indicator of guilt as colour of hair

The Birmingham accent was being bad-mouthed again yesterday. A paper to the British Psychological Society conference reported research in which actors affected standard or Brummie accents to play suspects being interviewed by the police. And those putting on a Brummie accent proved twice as likely to be judged guilty by a "jury" of students as those speaking with standard accents. The same prejudice against the Birmingham sound showed up whether the suspect was accused of white-collar crimes such as cheque fraud or "blue-collar" crimes such as armed robbery of motor accessories.

The hierarchy of prestige among regional accents is a constant wonder. And different occupations are also still credited or mocked for their typical voices. Clergymen, policemen, actors and barmaids are still expected to speak in stock accents. Television has made dour Scots the standard screen accent for doctors and either Yorkshire or educated Australian the pronunciation for vets. A Southern Irish brogue sounds "warm" because of the Dublin Liffey in broadcast and pop music, whereas any Ulster accent sounds threatening because of the province's grim politicians.

But this pyramid of prestige is continually changed, not least by the media of the spoken word. For Brum was once the accent of Shakespeare and Dr Johnson, of the steelmakers of the Industrial Revolution and the Chamberlains. So it was not always at the bottom of the English Tower of Babel.

And it need not stay there. What Birmingham needs to give its accent prestige is a pop group such as the Beatles or Oasis, or a new soap opera such as *Neighbours*.

In any case, the up-to-speed Briton speaks with more than one tongue. In his speech yesterday, the Prime Minister boasted: "I am a modern man leading a modern nation." And as the very model of a modern elocutionist he pronounced in the classiest patois of Islington. But on the appropriate occasion Tony Blair can also do the Oxford drawl. And in his constituency of Sedgfield, he drops "ayes" and other Northumberland idioms into his speech. Caring Estuary-speak or upmarket Cockney has spread up more estuaries than the Thames. And it is now being replaced by Mockney or Clapham Common, the accent of black Sarf London.

Accent is a rich source of entertainment and research papers. Ask a Brummie the difference between a buffalo and a bison, and he will reply that you cannot wash your hands in a buffalo. The persistence of regional accents in this comparatively small and densely populated island is delightful. But the inhabitants of Birmingham should not feel affronted by this latest academic impertinence about the way they speak. In Hollywood a cut-glass upper-crust English accent has become the bary of the villains. Those armed robbers and cheque forgers may have been taking elocution lessons. For a crook's a crook for a' that, however received or unreceived his pronunciation.

Lords reform and balance of power

From Mr Henry Brougham

Sir, Surely it is time to bring the debates on proportional representation and reform of the House of Lords rather closer together than William Rees-Mogg did in his article yesterday. "Take your seats for a House of horrors".

Let us use reform of the Lords as an opportunity to introduce proportional representation into Parliament by abolishing both the hereditary principle and nomination, and electing the Lords by PR. The Commons should continue to be elected on the first-past-the-post system (FPP), as now.

The chief disadvantage of FPP — disproportionate majorities allowing governments to ram through ill-conceived and ill-drafted legislation — would be tempered by an elected Lords having greater powers of revision and delay than at present to reflect its democratic legitimacy. The balance of power should remain with the Commons, however, to reflect the fact that members of the Lords (now what would we call them? "Senators" is rather over-used) would have been voted in as members of party lists instead of as individuals.

I do not believe that restoring to the Lords some of the powers it has lost over the past one hundred years is too radical a measure for a Government which is restoring to Scotland a parliament which it has not had for two hundred.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY BROUGHAM,
140 The Moors, Kidlington, Oxford.
September 30.

From Mr Tom Kilcourse

Sir, William Rees-Mogg is spot-on with his critique of Labour's plans for the Lords. Replacing hereditary peers with nominees simply increases the power of patronage while doing nothing to democratise our system, and an independent and elected second chamber cannot be achieved through the device of party contests in regional constituencies.

The dangers of relationships between the two chambers being determined by the balance of party power in each are self-evident. I suggest that an acceptable way round the problem could be found by basing second-chamber constituencies on established institutions in our society: trade unions, industrial and commercial bodies, religious institutions, political parties, major charities, and so on.

Such a system would offer a certain level of democracy while providing the breadth of expertise and the independence of political party required for a genuine check on the Commons. It would not guarantee that competence will prevail over political correctness, but it would at least place accountability on identifiable shoulders.

Yours faithfully,
TOM KILCOURSE,
27 Govers Meadow, Colyton, Devon.
September 29.

From the Earl of Lauderdale

Sir, Debate on the case for reform of the House of Lords by suspending the rights of hereditaries tends to ignore the crucial powers of the Upper House.

As things stand, for instance, the Lords can absolutely veto any attempt by the Commons to amend or suspend the working of the Quinquennial Act, which requires a general election at least every five years.

If the hereditaries are got rid of, the only way to restore the House of Lords to operational viability as a revising chamber would be to name a sufficient number of life peers. These nominations would need to pass through the hands of the Prime Minister and the replacements might thus be seen as the Prime Minister's yes-men, bound together in the greatest quango yet seen.

Unless these newly nominated life peers, once installed, could be relied on to exercise the independent judgment currently expected of Members of the revising chamber, any hope of the Lords one day exercising their constitutional right to veto amendment of the Quinquennial Act would disappear — and with it, quite possibly, the prospect of another general election.

Yours etc,
LAUDERDALE,
House of Lords.
September 29.

Stamp of authority

From Mr D. J. Budd

Sir, Recently I had to send 200 letters from the main post office in Winchester. When I asked for them to be put through the franking machine I was told that the machine could only be used for minimum orders of 500. When I tried to pay for the 200 stamps by plastic I was told that neither charge nor credit cards were acceptable to the Post Office.

Whilst the people's Prime Minister is in Brighton, perhaps he would be good enough to tell us, in addition to modernising easy targets like the monarchy and the constitution, how he intends to modernise the Post Office.

Yours faithfully,
D. BUDD,
1 Baulford Road,
Winchester, Hampshire.

Business letters, page 29

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Buses greater health threat than cars

From Professor Emeritus Stanley Feldman and Professor Emeritus Vincent Marks

Sir, As pointed out in your leading article of September 26, "Doctors on the air", traffic pollution is unpleasant, it is smelly, dirty and irritating. However, there is minimal scientific evidence that it causes nausea, asthma, heart disease or that, as you say that the BMA claims, it causes serious long-term health problems.

Certainly, when coal was extensively burnt and before the Clean Air Acts of the 1950s, one frequently saw patients with identifiable diseases caused by pollution. Since that time, however, we cannot recollect seeing any patient with a disease attributable to exhaust fumes, nor do we believe such a disease has ever been certified as a cause of a single death.

Despite extensive and detailed research, no disease-causing factor has been identified in exhaust gases at their present levels. There is some evidence to suggest that small particulate emission may aggravate existing bronchitis and asthma; but it is almost certainly not responsible for the increase in the incidence of these diseases. To suggest that it is detracts

from the pressing need to search for the true cause of childhood asthma.

It is surprising therefore that you suggest a programme to shift from private cars — which do not cause significant particle emission — to buses, coaches and diesel trains, which do. Similarly, to propose the bicycle as a solution ignores the needs of the increasing population over 65.

Any means for transporting people and goods costs energy and the convenience and utility of the car is appreciated by all who make it the second most important capital purchase in their life. They will not give it up easily. If encouragement were given for the use of really small efficient cars in towns, and if lorries, coaches and large cars were penalised, we would be more likely to reach an acceptable and sensible road policy than by the present fashionable enthusiasm for the bicycle and the bus.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY FELDMAN
(Imperial College of Science,
Technology and Medicine),
VINCENT MARKS
(University of Surrey),
28 Moore Street, SW3.
September 28.

Immigration queues

From Mr Nicholas Blake, QC

Sir, The Home Office Minister's response (letter, September 25) to your recent report on queues outside the Immigration Directorate's Public Enquiry Office (PEO) is wrong in significant respects.

It is unlikely that representatives queuing through the night to visit the Public Enquiry Office are presenting block applications for different clients as the minister states, since that practice was stopped by the Home Office in 1996.

Further, the problems arise because of the 1,000 applications dealt with every day only a small number (up to 25 per day) are permitted to be made by representatives at all; hence the unseemly scramble for the opportunity to present a case.

The "fast track" postal alternative to personal inquiry is simply not sufficiently speedy or efficient to meet the needs of those who have to travel at short notice. Nor are all agents invited to present six applications on designated days as the minister implies: a trial scheme has been introduced which is limited to a small number of representatives (currently about eight).

Immigration practitioners recognise the financial constraints on the Home Office, but are anxious to see a fair distribution of resources for all representatives, avoiding the health and safety risks presently occasioned by agents (whether couriers or other re-

presentatives of solicitors' firms) having to queue all night.

Yours sincerely
NICHOLAS BLAKE
(Chair, Immigration Law
Practitioners' Association,
Lindsey House,
40-42 Charterhouse Street, EC1.
September 29.

From Ms Julia Onslow-Cole

Sir, The situation at the PEO is indeed ludicrous. Last week Cameron McKenna, the City law firm of which I am a partner, sent its representative to make an application on behalf of a senior executive of a foreign bank in the UK. Despite queuing from 3am our representative was not there early enough to be seen, and as a result the executive was unable to travel to urgent meetings abroad.

The next day we were unable to make the application, as we had to re-present another client. We therefore had to instruct the executive's chauffeur to queue with our representative.

The Home Office must introduce a fair system for businessmen and other members of the public alike. The current system prejudices overseas businessmen who are bringing jobs and investment to the UK.

Yours faithfully,
JULIA ONSLOW-COLE
(Chairman, Migration and
Nationality Committee,
International Bar Association),
Cameron McKenna (solicitors),
Mitre House,
160 Aldersgate Street, EC1.

Northern Ireland talks

From Professor John A. Davis

Sir, There seems to be something about offshore islands that leads to internecine strife. What is happening in the six counties of Northern Ireland now seems to be following the Sicilian pattern, with the so-called nationalists developing the characteristics of a Mafia so used to underground resistance to government that its way of life (including the exercise of irresponsible power and the profits of corruption) is threatened by the peace process, and it regards reconciliation as a menace rather than a goal.

It would seem necessary for the British and Irish Governments to make a determined effort to eradicate all paramilitary groupings now, since whichever takes over the administration of the Province (or perhaps it should be ceded to an independent Scotland, to which it belongs geographically and culturally) will in the

long run be faced with cancer in the body politic.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. DAVIS,
1 Cambridge Road,
Great Shelford, Cambridge.

From the Reverend Dr Chris Ford

Sir, Under a photograph of Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, captioned "some ask whether her tumour affected her personality" (Body and Mind, September 25), you state that "Some journalists claim to have noticed an increasing intolerance of others' intolerance or prejudice."

Can I suggest that anyone trying to keep the Northern Ireland peace talks on the rails would display precisely the same personality traits. Anyone, that is, with an ounce of humanity.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS FORD,
St John's Rectory,
Raiton Terrace, Manchester.

Sounding brass

From Mr Rupert Jarvis

Sir, You report David Vicary, pastor of the church in East London which was fined for excessive noise (report, September 20), as saying that if the music stopped the church would be finished.

Given Jesus's teachings about houses built on sand, what hope is there for a church whose appeal lies solely in the noise it can make?

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT JARVIS,
43 High Street, Cuddesdon, Oxford.
rupert@bowseat.demon.com.uk
September 20.

In faith we trust

From Dame Cicely Saunders, OM,
Chairman of St Christopher's Hospice

Sir, Mr Alan Challoner (letter, September 19) refers to religion as a prop. I have found myself that it is, rather, a challenge which continues throughout life.

Meeting people at the end of their lives, we at St Christopher's try to give them space to make some sense of what is happening. It becomes clear that man is not only an individual standing on his own two feet but rather a part of a web of relationships.

We are not concerned to suggest to anyone our ways of thinking, but rather that they should think as deep-

Care of souls?

From Canon S. F. Bloxam-Rose

Sir, The career prospects for women in the Church of England after only five years of being eligible for ordination to the priesthood are quite remarkable. Today's *Times* (Church News) announces the appointment of the Reverend Christine Mason as Team Vicar of Rugeley "with special responsibility for The Holy Spirit".

Yours faithfully,
SIMON BLOXAM-ROSE
(Senior Chaplain, Millfield School),
Orchard Leigh,
Butleigh Road, Street, Somerset.
September 27.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Song and dance on opera funding

From the Music Director of English National Opera

Sir, When I read Mr Morrison's latest doom-laden warning ("One opera house is trouble enough", *Arts*, September 26), I was reminded that I'd forgotten to collect my winnings from the bet I placed last time he prophesied that there would soon only be room for one properly funded opera house in London.

That was six years ago ("Make it the Coliseum", April 5, 1991). Funding for the arts has been sliding for longer than that, but I don't remember a single year in which the "hundreds of excellent people" at the Coliseum, whose spirit and loyalty are renowned, have lost their determination to fight for their company and its audiences.

I did not join ENO as music director to see new productions cut and seat prices hiked up, and although our deficit is a serious burden, it is one that we have pledged to tackle in ways that do not undermine the very purpose of ENO's existence.

I have more optimism than Mr Morrison, and I stake my job on a conviction that artistic vision can be properly supported. But it requires vision in return — and not just on the part of the managements of ENO and the Royal Opera House.

The media can seldom do more than react to the past. At ENO we have the rather more inspiring job of planning for the future. I am immensely proud to be joining the fray when there is so much to play for.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL DANIEL,
Music Director,
English National Opera,
London Coliseum,
St Martin's Lane, WC2.
September 29.

From the Acting Secretary-General of the Arts Council of England

Sir, In propounding the theory that London should only have one opera company, Richard Morrison suggests that the Arts Council has "backed three entirely different scenarios for ENO" in the past three years. This is not wholly accurate.

The 1995 report from Denis Stevenson's lyric theatre team (of which I was a member) did not recommend that ENO turned into a "small company working in a small theatre". Our suggestion was that dance should have an increased share of the use of the Coliseum.

The lottery award to ENO in July 1995 was not "for a feasibility study into building a huge new opera house". Rather, it was for a comparative study to evaluate plans for a redeveloped Coliseum and to consider suitable alternatives.

Mr Morrison's third scenario relates to the Arts Council's current efforts, through the lottery-funded stabilisation programme, to work with ENO on a strategy for its future. The council supports ENO and our strategy is intended to enable the company to consolidate its resources in the short-to-medium term before considering any major capital development, either at the Coliseum or elsewhere.

Next month the council will determine the level of grant required to implement that strategy.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM DEVLIN,
Acting Secretary-General,
The Arts Council of England,
14 Great Peter Street, SW1.
September 26.

Military greatness

From Mr Sa'ad Khaldi

Sir, I was glad to see Dr Charles Long's letter (September 17) see also letters, September 20 and 25) pointing out the omission of my distinguished ancestor, Khalid Ibn al-Walid, from Colonel Lanning's league table of military leaders. For hundreds of millions of Muslims, he is the "Sword of Islam".

The title "Desert Storm" for the joint Allied (but mainly American-Saudi) military operation in the Gulf was taken throughout the Arab and Muslim world as an indirect tribute to al-Walid's famed tactics, attacking with a small mobile force much larger forces under the cover of a sandstorm.

Yours faithfully,
SA'AD KHALDI,
2 Vicar's Close, E9.
September 25.

From Mrs Susie Hancock

Sir, Does Lieutenant-Colonel Lanning feature in the world's top 100 most authoritative military historians?

Yours faithfully,
SUSIE HANCOCK,
37 Glen Drive, Bristol.
hsma.hancock@virgin.net
September 21.

From Mr Ian D. Thomson

Sir, Considering the outstanding contribution that I made to victory in North Africa and Europe in the Second World War, I am deeply offended that my name has been omitted from the list of the top 100 military leaders.

I am, yours faithfully,
IAN D. THOMSON
(Acting unpaid)
Lance-Bombardier, 1941-45,
67 Main Street, Winchburgh,
Broxburn, East Lothian.
September 25.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 30: The Duke of York this morning opened HELITECH '97, International Helicopter Technology and Operations Exhibition, at Redhill Aerodrome and was received by Mr Gordon Lee-Saunders (Vice Lord Lieutenant of Surrey).
His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Zonal Plastics Limited, Redhill.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 30: The Prince Edward this evening attended a Concert given by Her Majesty's Royal Marines at Guildhall, London EC2.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 30: The Princess Royal today departed Gatwick Airport, London, for Phoenix, Arizona, United States of America, to attend the UKAZ Festival.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon arrived in Phoenix.
The Princess Royal this evening attended the opening performance of *Othello* by the Royal National Theatre at the Herberger Theater.

Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke and

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gibbs are in attendance.
KENSINGTON PALACE
September 30: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at the opening performance of the French Theatre troupe at the Royal National Theatre, London SE1.

September 30: The Duke of Gloucester, President, British Consulate, was present at the opening of the Bureau's Seminar at the Taj Sheba Hotel, London SE1.

Afterwards His Royal Highness was received at the Presidential Palace by the President of the Republic of Yemen (Lieutenant-General Ali Abdullah Saleh).

Later The Duke of Gloucester attended a Luncheon at the Taj Sheba Hotel given by the British Consulate Bureau.

This evening His Royal Highness attended a Dinner given by His Excellency Mr Radwan Sculham (Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen) and Mrs Sculham at the British Embassy, Sana'a.

Today's royal engagements

Princess Margaret, as Honorary President, the British Museum Development Trust, will open the exhibition *Carriers: 1900-1939* at 7.20 and will then attend a dinner at the museum.

Viscount Tonypandy

Services of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Viscount Tonypandy will be held in: **Handsworth Cathedral** at 2.30pm on Saturday, November 8. Those wishing to attend are requested to apply in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to: Mr Glen Williams, Cardiff County Council, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff, CF1 1SW.
Westminster Abbey at noon on Thursday, November 13. Those wishing to attend are requested to apply in writing, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to: The Assistant Receiver General (Protocol), Room 13, The Chapter Office, 20 Dean Yard, Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA.
Applications for tickets must be received by October 24. All are welcome to apply for tickets.

Retirements

Mr Justice Hollis retired from the High Court Bench yesterday.
Judge Young and Judge Wilson retired from the Circuit Bench of the Midlands and Oxford Circuit yesterday.

Today's birthdays

Miss Julie Andrews, actress and singer, 62; Mr Moran Caplan, former general administrator, Gyldebourne Festival Opera, 81; Mr Jimmy Carter, former American President, 73; Mr R. de C. Chapman, former Headmaster, Malvern College, 61; Cardinal Cahal Daly, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, 80; Mr Phil de Glanville, captain, England rugby football, 26; Mr Sandy Hall, former archbishop, 70; Sir John Gray, former diplomat, 61; Mr Richard Hambro, chairman, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 82; Professor Sir Stuart Hampshire,

Memorial service

Sir Thomas Lodge
A memorial service for the life of Sir Thomas Lodge, former consultant radiologist, United Sheffield Hospitals, was held yesterday in the Cathedral Church of St Marie, Sheffield. Father Kevin Thornton officiated and Mr Anton Lodge, QC, son, led the prayers.
Dr Jerry Daly and Dr Paul Allan read the lessons. Professor Ronald Grainger gave an address. Miss C. Lodge, daughter, members of Sheffield University's Faculty of Medicine, the President of the Royal College of Radiologists and many other friends and former colleagues were present.

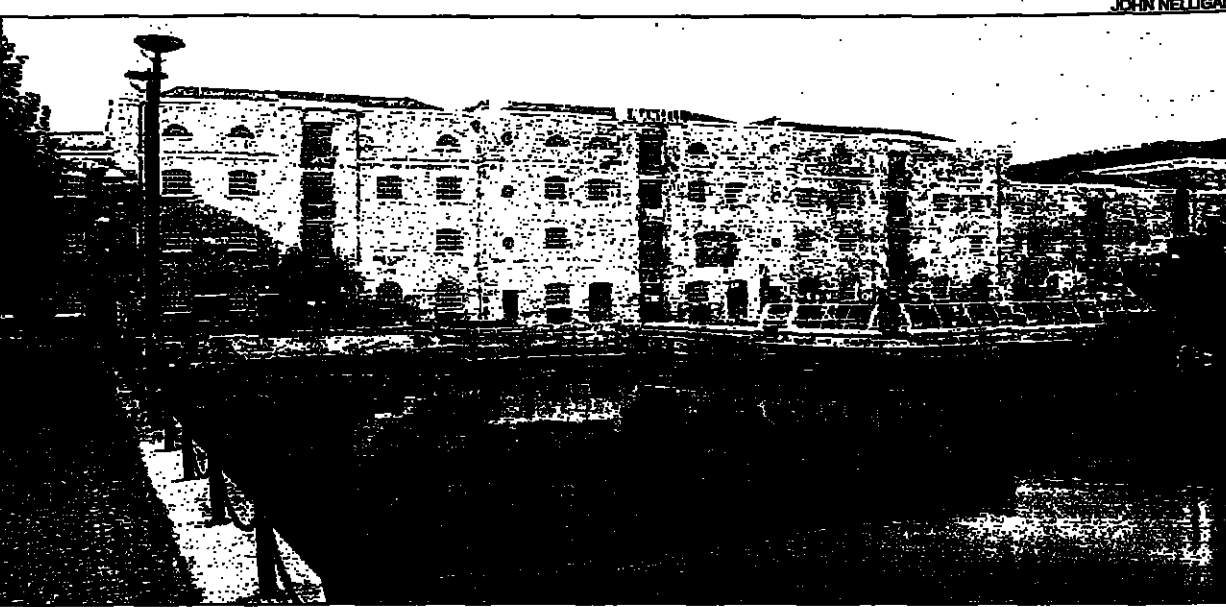
Dinners

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Butterworth, President of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society, Mr Andrew Warriner, Sir John Houghton and Dr Mary Archer were the speakers.
Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Mr Peter Curphy, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held last night at 1 Lambeth High Street, Baroness Miller of Hendon also spoke.

Appointment

Major-General P.W.E. Istead has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London.

£16million museum for Docklands



This listed Georgian warehouse on West India Quay will be the home of the new Docklands museum

Lottery will pay most of the cost

By JOHN YOUNG

A NEW £16 million museum portraying the history of the Port of London since Roman times is to be created in the Isle of Dogs, in the heart of the former Docklands. Nearly three quarters of the cost will be met by a grant of more than £11.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and most of the rest by a further £3.5 million from the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC).

The museum, scheduled to open in January 2000, will occupy five floors of a Grade I listed warehouse on West India Quay, facing the complex of modern office buildings at Canary Wharf. The galleries, library and archive will house more than 50,000 artefacts, paintings, photographs, and written and oral records, amassed by the Museum of London and the Port of London Authority.

Michael Oliver, the chairman of the trustees, said that the generous support of the lottery fund and the development corporation had been instrumental in realising the vision of a new cultural focal point for London. The museum is expected to attract 260,000 visitors in its first year alone, benefiting from the Jubilee Line extension linking East and West London.

The Georgian building, which will be its home, is part of a half-mile-long row of warehouses completed at the beginning of the 19th century and described by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England as "one of the great monuments of European economic power".

Built for the storage of sugar, rum and coffee, they



Sampling and marking sugar in a West India Dock warehouse, about 1925

were surrounded by a moat and high walls, and patrolled by an armed militia. The warehouses suffered extensive bomb damage in the Second World War and seven of the original nine were eventually demolished. The surviving buildings have been restored to their original splendour by the development corporation and given to the Museum Trust.

Until the outbreak of the war London was the greatest port in the world. Its seven docks system occupied some 720 acres of water, surrounded by 35 miles of quayside. In addition to the enclosed docks, the riverfront between London Bridge and Gravesend was lined with wharfs, ship repair yards, barge yards, factories and heavy industries.

Ocean-going and coastal ships made more than 50,000 visits to the port every year. It provided employment for some 100,000 dockers, stevedores, lightermen, seamen and ancillary workers. A further 150,000 depended upon it for a living.

The postwar advent of con-

tainer ships and roll-on, roll-off ferries brought about a rapid decline. Within a decade the number of registered dockers fell from a peak of 32,000 in 1955 to fewer than 12,000. From 1967 the docks became progressively redundant, culminating in the closure of the huge downstream Royal complex in 1981.

In that year the Government created the first two urban development corporations, in London and on Merseyside, to tackle the problems of unemployment and derelictions resulting from the rapid change in shipping practices. The LDDC, which is to be wound up at the end of this year, was given the task of regenerating 8.5 square miles of former docklands.

From the early 1980s onwards the Museum of London gathered together a vast collection of artefacts ranging from dockers' hooks to quayside cranes. Between 1986 and 1989 museum officials recorded more than 260 hours of taped interviews with former workers and their families. At the same

time the museum acquired the PLA library and archive including 10,000 books, 50,000 plans and engineering drawings, 40,000 photographs, 350 films, and 5,000 paintings, drawings and engravings.

The displays at the new museum will trace the history of the port from Roman times, through the Elizabethan voyages of discovery, 18th-century piracy on the Thames, the building of the first docks, the growth of industry, shipbuilding and international trade, the port at war and its recent decline and regeneration.

The indoor exhibits will be complemented by a display of restored cranes, tugs and barges along the waterfront. Sir Michael Pickard, chairman of the LDDC, said: "The museum not only secures a new and highly appropriate use for a magnificent dockside building but will also be the focus of the Docklands' cultural regeneration. For many people it will revive memories of an area which has seen dramatic change over the last three decades."

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.R.R. Ashby
and **Miss S.J. Osborn**
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr. Ashby, of Barbican, London, and Mrs. Sandy Ashby, of Wendover, Buckinghamshire, and Sarah, daughter of the late Mr. Patrick Osborn and of Mrs. Osborn, of Hatfield, Surrey.

Mr D.R.J. Bryant
and **Miss P.K. Huggatt**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bryant, of Eastbourne, Sussex, and Kate, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Huggatt, of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mr S.R. El-Charif
and **Miss R.M.F. Conyers**
The engagement is announced between Shadi, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. El-Charif, and Rachel, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Conyers, both of Blechley, Buckinghamshire.

Mr R.G. Federman
and **Miss C.J. Frank**
The engagement is announced between Raul, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Federman, of Reading, and Caroline, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Frank, of London.

Mr R.G.J. Fleming
and **Miss M.S. Calvert**
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Fleming, of Kearsborough, North Yorkshire, and Martina, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Calvert, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Mr G.R. Hayes
and **Miss S.M. Jardine Brown**
The engagement is announced between Garfield, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hayes, of Cox Green, Berkshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Colin Jardine Brown, of Iwerth, Hampshire.

Mr R.L.C. Hordern
and **Miss C.M.H. Trauer**
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Colonel and Mrs. Joseph Hordern, of Radwinter, Essex, and Catherine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter W. Trauer, of Lichfield, Staffordshire.

Mr K.T. Russkoma
and **Miss A.J. Alder**
The engagement is announced between Karl, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Heikki Russkoma, of Kuopio, Finland, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Alder, of Kippislaw, East Lothian.

Lieutenant W.S. Cowan, Jr.
and **Miss G.S. Barrowes**
The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Cowan, Sr., of Pawleys Island, South Carolina, USA, and Georgina, daughter of Mr. Brian Barrowes, of Uxley, West Yorkshire, and Mrs. Brendan MacKenzie, of Belgrave, London.

Mr B.S.A. James
and **Miss L.I.R. Holland**
The engagement is announced between Benedict, younger son of Mr. Stephen James, of Lymington, Hampshire, and Mrs. Patricia Cave, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, and Laura, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Holland, of Chobham, Surrey.

Mr M. Poore
and **Miss C. Upthorn**
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Poore, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, and Claire, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Upthorn, of Harbury, Warwickshire.

Dr D.J. Power
and **Miss C.M. O'Leary**
The engagement is announced between Daniel, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Power, of Altrincham, Cheshire, and Claire, only daughter of Mr. Bernard O'Leary, of Ashton in Makerfield, Lancashire.

Mr D.H. Shuttleworth
and **Miss M.E.R. Hill**
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Terence Shuttleworth, of Newmarket, Suffolk, and Melanie, younger daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. J.R. Hill, of Hyde, Kent.

Mr R.W.J. Smith
and **Miss A.J. Edwards**
The engagement is announced between Robert, only son of Mr. and Mrs. David Smith, of Penn, Wolverhampton, and Alison, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Edwards, also of Penn, Wolverhampton.

Mr J.C. Tust
and **Miss V.E. Selby**
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Tust, of Osenhall, Gloucestershire, and Victoria, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Selby, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

St Andrew's Ball

The St Andrew's Ball will be held in London on Friday, November 28. There will be pre-ball evenings at Battersea Town Hall on Thursday, October 16, and at Wandsworth Town Hall on November 6, and a teaching evening on October 23. Ball tickets including dinner are £5 and advance tickets are £49 from the Ball Secretary, The Garden House, Chertsey, Surrey, TW20 9QQ. Tel: 0181 771352. Fax: 771667.

Baron Selkirk of Douglas

The life barony conferred upon Lord James Alexander Douglas-Hamilton, QC, has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Selkirk of Douglas, of Cranford in the City of Edinburgh.

Baron Lang of Monkton

The life barony conferred upon Mr. Ian Lang has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Lang of Monkton, of Merrick and the Rhinns of Kells in Dumfries and Galloway.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Henry III, reigned 1216-72, Winchester, 1207; Paul I, Emperor of Russia 1796-1801, St Petersburg, 1754; William Beckford, novelist, Fonthill, Wiltshire, 1760; Anne Besant, co-founder of the Theosophical Society, London, 1847; Paul Dukas, composer, Paris, 1865; Liaquat Ali Khan, 1st Prime Minister of Pakistan 1947-51, Karnal, East Punjab, India, 1895; Vladimir Horowitz, pianist, Kiev, Russia, 1904; Duncan Edwards, footballer, Dudley, 1936.

DEATHS: Pierre Corneille, poet and dramatist, Paris, 1684; Sir Edwin Landseer, painter, London, 1873; Anthony Ashley Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury, social reformer, Folkestone, 1885; Benjamin Jowett, scholar, Hadley Park, Hampshire, 1893; Louis Leakey, archaeologist and anthropologist, London, 1972; Sir Sachseveril Sitwell, writer, 1988.

The News of the World was first published, 1843.
St Pancras station opened, London, 1868.
The Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, signed by Britain, America and Russia, came into operation, 1963.
The Watergate trial began, 1974.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

That is why when we give glory to God it is through Jesus Christ. We are 'amen' and if you and we believe in Christ, it is all God's doing. 2 Corinthians 1:12

BIRTHS

ALLAN - On September 24th at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs. David Allan, a daughter, Victoria Olivia.

BALL - On 28th September, to Mr and Mrs. R. de C. Chapman, a daughter, Anna James, a brother for Thomas.

BRAITHWAITE - On 21st August, to Kate (née Campbell) and a son, Henry Campbell Taylor, a brother for Thomas.

BRESCON - On 27th September, at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs. David Brescon, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

CLUTTERBUCK - On September 24th, to Mr and Mrs. David Clutterbuck, a daughter, Isabella Sarah Olivia.

DANFORTH - On 23rd September 1997 at The John Radcliffe Hospital, to Mr and Mrs. David Danforth, a son, Lewis John Madden.

DUPRE - On 29th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Dupre, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

EDGEMOND/ELLIOTT - On August 21st, to Mr and Mrs. David Edgmond, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

FOWLER - On September 27th, to Mr and Mrs. David Fowler, a daughter, Isabella Sarah Olivia.

BIRTHS

LUKE - On September 22nd at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs. David Luke, a son, Lewis John Madden.

MELVIN - On 27th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Melvin, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

MEDFORD - On September 10th, to Mr and Mrs. David Medford, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

OTA - On September 24th at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs. David Ota, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

STEWART - On 24th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Stewart, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

TALHAM - On September 24th at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs. David Talham, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

CLUTTERBUCK - On September 24th, to Mr and Mrs. David Clutterbuck, a daughter, Isabella Sarah Olivia.

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EDGEMOND/ELLIOTT - On August 21st, to Mr and Mrs. David Edgmond, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

DEATHS

CURLE - Sir John Noel Curle, 83, died on September 30th after a long illness. He was born in 1914 and was a member of the Royal Society.

MELVIN - On 27th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Melvin, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

MEDFORD - On September 10th, to Mr and Mrs. David Medford, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

OTA - On September 24th at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs. David Ota, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

STEWART - On 24th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Stewart, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

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DUPRE - On 29th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Dupre, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

EDGEMOND/ELLIOTT - On August 21st, to Mr and Mrs. David Edgmond, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

FARGHAR - Heather Michelle (née McDonald) passed away at home on September 29th, 1997. She was born in 1924 and was a member of the Royal Society.

MELVIN - On 27th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Melvin, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

MEDFORD - On September 10th, to Mr and Mrs. David Medford, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

OTA - On September 24th at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs. David Ota, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

STEWART - On 24th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Stewart, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

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DUPRE - On 29th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Dupre, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

EDGEMOND/ELLIOTT - On August 21st, to Mr and Mrs. David Edgmond, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

MACKINNON - Kathleen, 82, died on September 29th after a long illness. She was born in 1915 and was a member of the Royal Society.

MELVIN - On 27th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Melvin, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

MEDFORD - On September 10th, to Mr and Mrs. David Medford, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

OTA - On September 24th at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs. David Ota, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

STEWART - On 24th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Stewart, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

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DUPRE - On 29th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Dupre, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

EDGEMOND/ELLIOTT - On August 21st, to Mr and Mrs. David Edgmond, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

STOCK - Professor Francis Stock, 82, died on September 29th after a long illness. He was born in 1915 and was a member of the Royal Society.

MELVIN - On 27th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Melvin, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

MEDFORD - On September 10th, to Mr and Mrs. David Medford, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

OTA - On September 24th at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs. David Ota, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

STEWART - On 24th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Stewart, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

TALHAM - On September 24th at the Portland Hospital, to Mr and Mrs. David Talham, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

CLUTTERBUCK - On September 24th, to Mr and Mrs. David Clutterbuck, a daughter, Isabella Sarah Olivia.

DANFORTH - On 23rd September 1997 at The John Radcliffe Hospital, to Mr and Mrs. David Danforth, a son, Lewis John Madden.

DUPRE - On 29th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Dupre, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

EDGEMOND/ELLIOTT - On August 21st, to Mr and Mrs. David Edgmond, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

STOCK - Professor Francis Stock, 82, died on September 29th after a long illness. He was born in 1915 and was a member of the Royal Society.

MELVIN - On 27th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Melvin, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

MEDFORD - On September 10th, to Mr and Mrs. David Medford, a daughter, Emma Montague, a sister for Emma and a son, two David Osmond.

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DUPRE - On 29th September, to Mr and Mrs. David Dupre, a daughter

OBITUARIES

ROY LICHTENSTEIN

Roy Lichtenstein, artist, died on September 29 aged 73. He was born on October 27, 1923.

It was a challenge from one of his sons that took Roy Lichtenstein into America's artistic and commercial big league. The young boy pointed to a Mickey Mouse comic book and said "I bet you can't paint as good as that". Lichtenstein was soon starting the art world, and then the world, with hugely enlarged frames of Mickey and Donald, transferred to canvas. The *New York Times* critic helpfully protested that he was "one of the worst artists in America... making a sow's ear out of a sow's ear", and Pop Art was launched — with the backing (despite its name) of the new sophisticates.

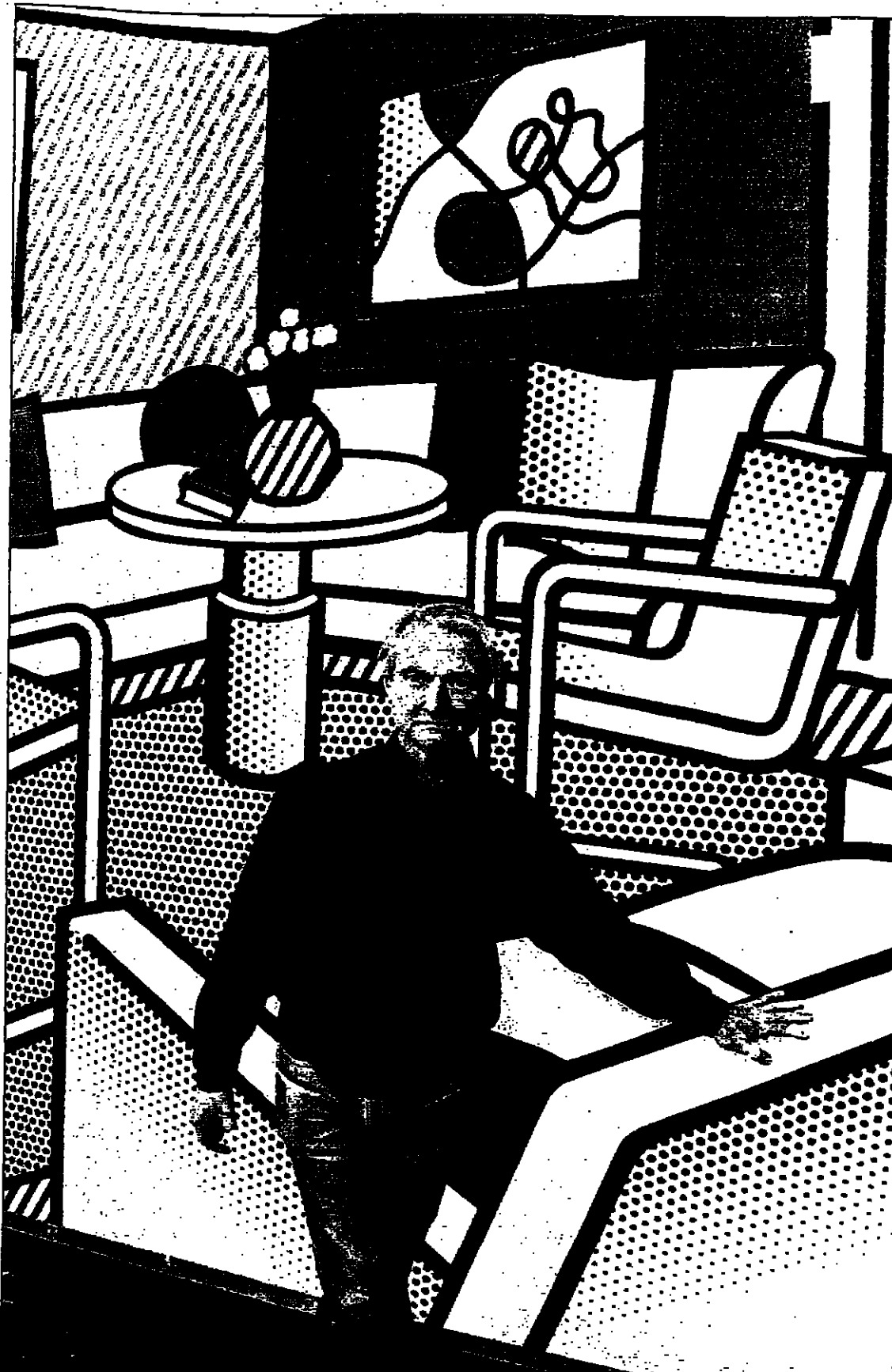
Roy Lichtenstein was born in New York City and had a quiet childhood in an unassuming middle-class family. Art was not taught at his high school, but he drew and painted jazz musicians as a hobby, somewhat influenced by Picasso's moody Blue Period paintings. In 1939 he took summer classes at the Art Students League under Reginald Marsh, a former commercial artist who had become a well-known urban realist. The following year Lichtenstein enrolled at the School of Fine Arts at Ohio State University, where he stayed until he was drafted in 1943. After serving in Europe, he returned to Ohio promptly on demobilisation in 1946, and continued his studies until 1949.

The Ohio influence of Hoyt Sherman, an early theorist of "figure-ground" relationships, can be seen in Lichtenstein's later strong use of fine images, from posters pilfered to fine artists pastiche. It is also evident in the forcefulness of his primary colours, or the "bite" of their sharply contrasted black and white.

Lichtenstein went through early spells of geometrical abstraction and Cubism, but the first paintings he exhibited were such specific American as cowboys and Indians and dollar bills. His first one-man show was in 1949 at the Ten Thirty Gallery in Cleveland, Ohio. Next, he interspersed painting with assemblages of found objects, exhibited in 1951 in New York at the Carlebach Gallery.

During the 1950s, Lichtenstein worked in Cleveland as an engineering draughtsman while struggling towards the life of a full-time artist. In 1956 he made a painting of a dollar bill — a forerunner of Pop Art — but he did not follow it up. During these years he and his friends used to visit the Cedar Street Tavern in Greenwich Village, where Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning could sometimes be spotted. "We'd just hang out and hope something would rub off," he recalled much later. "Guess it did." In the 1960s, when he had been appointed assistant professor at Douglas College of Rutgers University, New Jersey, he also met Allan Kaprow, Claes Oldenburg, Jim Dine, Lucas Samaras and George Segal.

It was in this atmosphere that Lichtenstein produced his first comic-strip paintings. Although they appeared initially to be straight copies, they were in fact slightly edited and tidied up. Lichtenstein retained the vivid strength of the images while



exposing their brittleness. In 1961 he took six of them to the newly opened gallery of Leo Castelli, and was accepted for exhibition there in preference to Andy Warhol, who was working on similar lines. (Before long, however, Castelli was also representing Warhol, Jasper Johns, Frank Stella and Cy Twombly.) Lichtenstein's first show with Castelli, in 1962, brought immediate recognition, selling out even before the opening, and put him on an artistic fast track. As he put it: "I was thirty-eight when I did my first Pop picture. It was like having a second life... I am in a fool's paradise." He

moved to New York in 1963, stopped teaching in 1964, showed at the Venice Biennale in 1966, was the subject of a popular exhibition at the Tate Gallery in 1968 and an instant retrospective at the Guggenheim Museum in 1969. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1970.

Fame and money were not unwelcome — some said they were cynically sought — but they only made him more dedicated to his work. Anything but a Bohemian, he observed regular hours in a substantial and highly organised studio, with several assistants, taking an hour for lunch every day in

the same restaurant. As a result of this discipline, he became something of a mass-producer himself.

Lichtenstein's work of the 1960s is a fine artist's inspection of the images and language of mass communication. The banal conventions of commercial illustrations fascinated him, and so did the technical means. He focused on lettering and speech balloons (allowing critics to trace a line back from "I know how you must feel, Brad..." through caricatures to religious paintings and icons). But he also drew attention to the Ben Day dot-system of printing, on the scale for which they were intended, more

and bigger dots produce a darker tone, but in his huge enlargements they are distractingly dotty. In colour, their effect is akin to pointillism, but without the delicacy.

As the trashy became the monumental, Lichtenstein was simultaneously examining, celebrating, plagiarising, parodying and criticising the clichés of "low art". *Whaam!* (1963), an enlarged frame of a cartoon showing an aerial dogfight, is a comment at once on violent emotions portrayed and debased; on the crude simplification of the cartoon imagery; on the forceful compositional skills of the original illustrator (which Lichtenstein accentuated); and on the detached, mechanical means of reproduction. One of his most vigorous paintings of this period, it caused some outrage when the Tate bought it in 1966, but has since been one of the gallery's most popular exhibits.

The comic-book Pop Art images which brought Lichtenstein fame were mostly produced between 1961 and 1965, but from the beginning of that decade he was constantly playing with other kinds of material too. After 1962 he made pastiches or parodies of the work of other artists — Monet, Picasso, Mondrian and many more — emphasising the abstract qualities of the works by accentuating line, composition and flatness. A series of sunset and landscape views done between 1964 and 1966 led to pastiches of 1930s Art Deco "streamlined" designs.

After 1965, Lichtenstein also worked in other media, such as glass, enamel, steel and ceramics. Here his designs were executed by technicians, but they have been much admired for their sense of form and their technical virtuosity, conveying such effects as lamplight, mirror reflections or steam from a kettle. Many were again ironic or self-referential. The Tate Gallery, for instance, has a set of dinnerware in china patterned as if in a crude newspaper advertisement of itself with applied shading.

Despite Lichtenstein's settling for an art form that omits everything personal or profound (some critics preferred to classify it as "high design"), his works followed those of such living celebrities as Johns and Rauschenberg in the 1980s in attracting huge sums. In 1990, *Kiss II* sold for more than \$6 million. Another picture, bought on an American Express card, brought the purchaser 2.48 million air miles. But when the prices got beyond a joke, Lichtenstein himself worried that collectors were treating him too academically and failing to see the humour.

Lichtenstein's work asks how well ideas, emotions and art survive the simplification and repetition of modern packaging. His wild changes of scale, medium and context are but exaggerations of a process that goes on all around us. His art is to do with deconstruction, reconstruction and reproduction; but in the end, when someone is taking the Mickey, it would be a pity to pay a million dollars and miss the joke.

Roy Lichtenstein was married in 1949 to Isabel Wilson. They had two sons, but the marriage was dissolved in 1965. Three years later he married Dorothy Herzka, who survives him, along with his sons.

LEONARD MULLINS



Leonard Mullins, former director of the Malaysian Rubber Producers' Research Association, died on September 19 aged 79. He was born on May 21, 1918.

LEONARD MULLINS had an important part in the modernisation of the Malaysian rubber industry during the 1960s and 1970s. As director of research of the Malaysian Rubber Producers' Research Association in Britain, he helped to capitalise on the large volume of basic technical information acquired by the laboratories. He and his colleagues established new markets for natural rubber, notably several modified forms of the raw material, improved tyres for winter driving, and rubber bearings to protect buildings against earthquake damage.

For his services to the industry he was made a Companion of St Michael and St George in 1976, and his scientific achievement was recognised by the award of the Colwyn Medal of the former Institution of the Rubber Industry in 1966 and the Good Year Medal of the American Chemical Society in 1986. He was also honoured by professional societies in many countries.

Leonard Mullins was educated at Eltham College and University College London, where he graduated in physics in 1939 intending to become a teacher. For the next five years he was involved in weapons research at the Woolwich Arsenal and the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, and, having decided that his vocation was in research, he joined the old Research Association of British Rubber Manufacturers in 1944.

In 1949 he was seconded to the Ministry of Supply to supervise the dismantling of the Bayer rubber laboratories at Leverkusen for auction among the Allies. After turning down several job offers from America, he then joined the Malaysian Rubber Producers' Association in 1950. He was appointed director of research in 1962, and after retirement in 1983 he was for several years a consultant to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation in Vienna, and a member of a task force set up by the Malaysian Government to plan its future industrial development.

Since 1973, the home of the Malaysian Rubber Producers' Research Association has been Brickendonbury, a Hertfordshire manor house, and during Mullins's tenure it became almost a compulsory stopping-off point for Malaysian politicians, diplomats and scientists visiting Britain. Many of them enjoyed the hospitality of Mullins and his wife Freda at their home in Welwyn Garden City.

A commanding figure, Mullins was an accomplished public speaker, and this, combined with his comprehensive knowledge of the economics, science and technology of rubber, made him an unrivalled "ambassador" for natural rubber. He travelled extensively despite suffering a serious heart attack in 1968.

He was also a staunch supporter of Malaysian aspirations, keen to maintain good Anglo-Malaysian relations through good and bad times. To his staff he was always courteous and considerate about professional and domestic matters. He is survived by his wife and their two daughters.

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Sold off too cheaply, local papers mean business

Winning against impossible odds

On Friday a little bit of British newspaper history will be made when the weekly *Darlington & Stockton Times* succumbs to modern trends and puts news on its front page. The paper that is often described as the Dalesman's bible has waited until its 150th anniversary to take its great design leap forward.

The paper is as good a symbol as any of the enduring strength and social importance of local newspapers. They also happen to be good business again after years in the doldrums. The *Darlington & Stockton Times*, complete with news on its front page, is on its way to flotation on the London Stock Exchange as part of the Newsquest group which has 173 free and paid-for titles.

The present state of local newspapers is a clear case of the good guys winning against apparently impossible odds. To the outside world, local newspapers may not be very glamorous. The stories may be very local — in fact the more local the better — and Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, will not often have to worry about the paparazzi or invasions of privacy.

But there was a moment a few years ago when it looked as if the future was bleak for the local press. Newspaper prices were soaring and the poor state of the economy was hitting its staple diet, classified ads for cars and property. For good measure there was a large expansion of local commercial radio.

Underlying it all was the thesis that newspapers were "mature" and doomed to slow, if not actually downright low, growth. Highly paid consultants ran their computer models and decreed that the thing to do with mature businesses was to cut the costs as hard as you can and take the increased profits until maturity becomes senility. Anyway, who would want local newspapers in the age of the Internet and electronic publishing?

As with all mistaken ideas there was an element of truth in the analysis. There was certainly enough to convince most of the big publishers to get out of the business. Over the past couple of years there has been a rush for the door by everybody from Emap, the magazines and exhibition group, and Pearson, publishers of the *Financial Times*, to the International Thomson Organisation. It could have been a disaster for those who value their local publications as an essential contributor to a sense of community. In fact the opposite has happened. In place of those chanting their mantras that newspapers were mature businesses have come specialist local newspaper publishers who believe in what they are doing.

Companies such as Trinity International, Newsquest and Johnston Press have been increasing profits and in some cases actually opening new newspapers. The most recent figures from the Newspaper Society, the trade body, show that in the first six months of the year more than half the UK's local and regional newspapers increased their circulations at a time when there are unprecedented media offerings from cable and satellite TV, with 200 new channels on the way.

It is a joy to see the people who tried to write off an industry and a tradition get it so spectacularly wrong. They may even have to account to shareholders one day to explain why they got rid of trusted 100-year-old brands too cheaply.

The simple truth is that people are, in an uncertain world of impersonal international communications, seeking to rekindle a sense of belonging, a sense of localness. And even if the Internet does become ubiquitous, though it will probably take a generation, then local newspapers are the primary engines for providing information electronically, both editorial and advertisements.

Seven of the largest regional groups have already got together to found ADHunters, a database containing about 70 per cent of UK classified advertising. A Londoner, for example, who wants to move to another part of Britain can use his computer to tap into a selection of appropriate job and property ads in the area of his choice. It is difficult to see how anyone other than the local newspaper could create such a database so cost-effectively. They have the information already in electronic form.

Other papers such as the Trinity-owned *Belfast Telegraph* are already producing sophisticated electronic front pages on the Internet to cater to the Irish diaspora around the world.

Whatever happens to Newsquest's shares next month, it will still be time for at least two cheers. The estimates suggest that the company will be valued at about £540 million. This is surely not bad for a company created when Reed Elsevier, the media and information giant, decided to sell its local papers to their managers because it was no longer interested in the sector. Then the same managers bought the Westminster Press local paper group when Pearson lost interest.

Of course some of the Newsquest businesses are very mature indeed — papers such as the *Berrow's Worcester Journal*, which claims to be the world's oldest title in continuous publication.



RAYMOND SNODDY

Why men become monsters

The film-maker Rex Bloomstein is fascinated by evil. Interview by Maggie Brown

What drives people to commit wicked acts? Are torturers born or made? Is it possible to stop a country collapsing into tyranny by speaking out early? These are the profound questions raised by the human rights documentary-maker Rex Bloomstein in the austere but compelling series, *Roots Of Evil*.

"I'm trying to prompt the audience to think more deeply about the issue. There are explanations," Mr Bloomstein says. "The ordinary viewer needs to look at himself and understand how fragile civilised behaviour is. Even in a totalitarian regime, there are moral choices. People choose."

What emerges through the programme is not a sermon, nor conventional documentary. Mr Bloomstein pursues his theme around the globe, through interviews with torturers and academic experts and psychologists. These are threaded with minimal commentary, and no music or special effects. It is television without frills. The urgency makes it compelling.

Mr Bloomstein, 55, is well qualified to tackle this huge issue. He founded the regular BBC2 series *Prisoners of Conscience* (based on Caroline Moorehead's regular newspaper columns), which campaigned for individual sufferers. Much of *Roots Of Evil* can be traced directly to the contacts Mr Bloomstein has acquired as a documentary-maker and humanitarian. He arranged and conducted interviews with ex-torturers because of this knowledge, from victims, of where the guilty men could be found.

Trained at the BBC — he made his first film in 1970 — he is most often associated with *Strangers With Candy*, the award-winning series in 1980 about life inside the prison. It is credited with stimulating the creation of the Penal Reform Trust. The programme also helped to open up prisons to the cameras. He has made 17 films about penal life, including *Prisoners' Wives*, *The Sentence*, *Release and Life*.

And he is a co-founder and trustee chairman of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, the British charity that tries to rehabilitate refugees. Mr Bloomstein belongs to the old school of programme-makers who believe in public service broadcasting.

"I believe documentaries can activate people to do things. There is no point in



Rex Bloomstein raises profound questions about human rights in his documentary series *Roots Of Evil*

being worthy but dull. I have spoken, more than most, to people who have committed terrible crimes. One is struck forcibly by their ordinariness. There is a huge gap in our understanding of how apparently ordinary people do these things. Because they are in a minority... it can be that at times of enormous dislocation, social upheaval, unscrupulous men and women can test depths of human potential for destruction and cruelty. I wanted to pose the question: how can a man become a torturer, how can a man kill his neighbour? Is evil within or outside?"

The series roams between Cambodia, Rwanda, Argentina, North America, Israel, Turkey and Britain, eclectically gathering information, which is spliced with historical footage about three particular tyrants: Idi Amin, Pol Pot and Saddam Hussein.

And they fit well with the current mood: *The Nazis*, *A Warning From History*, on BBC2 has a very similar message about the choices individual people made in colluding with Hitler's terror. Next Sunday's programme examines how torturers are shaped and motivated. Mr Bloomstein ex-

plains how they are both brutalised and given an ideology, so that they treat their victims as both dehumanised creatures and threats to society.

One of Mr Bloomstein's coups is an interview with the Argentine torturer Adolfo Scilingo, he explains how he stripped and pushed drugged students, "the Disappeared", out of aeroplanes over the Atlantic. One ex-torturer, unnamed, filmed in shadow by Mr Bloomstein, calmly explained that the aim was to get the information by breaking the victim in three hours.

"Minimum physical damage, maximum degree of pain," he talks beside an electric grill "used" which combines with the *plena*, a type of electric prod, to form the theatre for torture. "Prisoners died on this bed," he says.

He believes that brutalising men — his film shows the process used in Brazil of forcing cadets to crawl through sewage and blood and beg for food — is only part of the story. They have to be given a motive for viewing their victims as sub-human. "Idealism can be the most devastating impulse. It

can cover a multitude of sins and can be an excuse for unmitigated horror." In many countries the authorities recruit torturers from the military police, and sift out those who are conditionable. "They don't like people who are too ruthless. They like controlled people."

In another frank interview, the ex-Turkish torturer Michael Sufli, explains how he was selected from the ranks of new soldiers, and sent to an interrogation centre in Ankara. For two days, the recruits were themselves tortured into a state of compliant fear.

Sufli describes how they were taught the *falala*, beatings on the feet, until "pieces of meat" came away, and how he forced one victim to eat newspaper. But he cracked after a week, when he was told to torture an eight-year-old boy. "It was too fast. That child probably saved my life."

As Mr Bloomstein insists and his programmes teach: there are answers. Evil is fabricated within people, the potential runs through the heart of every person. These are not perfect programmes. But they make you think. *Roots Of Evil*, Channel 4, Sundays, 9pm.

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11 OFFICES NATIONWIDE

BT revisits the gritty realism school of advertising at a 'greasy spoon' on the North Circular



Jon Harvey helped to give Channel 4 its cool look with the "Olympic rings" promos

Advertisements are getting gritty again and starting to pay more attention to real life. They contain if not quite real people, then actors who have a passing resemblance.

The latest BT Friends and Family ad which launches on television tomorrow evening, was shot at a mobile "greasy spoon" in a lay-by off London's North Circular Road. The message is that "in the time taken to fry this egg, you could save 23 per cent off your phone bills with Friends and Family. The contrast with the famous actor approach in BT's central campaign — It's Good to Talk — is considerable.

For the more gritty, real-life ad, the advertising agency Abbott Mead Vickers went to

Jon Harvey, a 33-year-old director who has specialised in television promos. Harvey was one of the team involved in the "Olympic rings" transformation of Channel 4's on-screen identity but, more centrally he has helped to give the channel its "cool" look by shooting the promos that go between the programmes.

Harvey, who works for Tsunami Films, which specialises in bringing on directors who have worked in a variety of media, has written and directed more than 200 of the individual spots between Channel 4 programmes — many based on interviews with Jennifer Aniston, Helena Christensen, Rory Bremner and Father Ted, as well as "people off the street", in the increasingly competitive

world of TV more and more attention, Harvey says, is being paid to filming proper promos instead of lashing together a few clips from upcoming programmes.

RAYMOND SNODDY

Crafting Blair's speech

The Prime Minister's party address is really a chance to speak to the nation. Months of planning ensure its seamless execution, says Dan Clifton

I had all the production values of a boxing title fight. The darkened hall, the spotlights, the handshakes with the crowd, right down to the tracking cameras beaming back the shots to the television audience.

When Tony Blair rose yesterday to give what is still quaintly known as the Parliamentary Report by the Leader of the Labour Party to this year's annual Labour conference, he was launching one of the great set pieces of the political calendar, an event wrapped in expectation and ritual.

The irony of the leader's speech is that, though ostensibly delivered for the benefit of the party members in the hall, in reality they are the least significant audience. More important by far is the audience watching the news bulletins at home, followed closely by the journalists in the hall who shape the next day's headlines. A great deal of effort is expended by the party machine to ensure that things go well for these two key audiences.

For the Prime Minister and his staff, the speech becomes a focus of activity once everyone has returned from summer holidays. When Blair lived in Islington, he used to dictate drafts of the speech as he sat in his garden soaking up the autumn sun. Now he uses the relative calm of Chequers to think without interruption.

For the speech, he draws on a wide range of inspiration and help, in a process of constant revising and honing down. At the centre are his key advisers, his press secretary Alastair Campbell and his

longstanding policy adviser David Miliband. Other members of staff from Downing Street, as well as outside advisers, play a role too.

Tradition demands that the speech pushes a series of buttons — foreign affairs and defence, home affairs, the health service, and so on. The media demands that it should say something "new", and over the past few weeks his staff have been working on devising the policy "nuggets", as we called them in Miliband, considered essential for driving the news headlines. In Government, such nuggets have the added advantage of representing something real and practical rather than a mere promise.

The Downing Street postbag is also a source of inspiration, which in the weeks after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has been even fuller than usual.

The final result is very much Blair's own. Throughout Monday, as he was holed up in his Brighton hotel room putting the final touches to the speech, the media and spinning operation was gearing up.

The planning starts early. In May of 1996, not long after I'd joined Labour's Miliband machine as broadcasting officer, I was summoned to Peter Mandelson's office for a meeting to discuss how we could make best use of the one week of the year when we would have the media's undivided attention. As campaign manager, Mandelson was in overall charge of the crucial pre-election conference, and had invited some media professionals to join the discussion. Sitting on his sofa, we batted



Labour of love: the leader's speech is one of the great set pieces of the political year

around a number of ideas — some crazy, some less so — could the leader's speech be moved into television prime time? The broadcasters would feel compelled to cover it, securing a better audience. We talked about improving the seating arrangements during the speech, radically redesigning the set by extending the

stage, and using video inserts to improve the presentation. Most of the suggestions proved impracticable, but some of the ideas were incorporated into the set design by Jackie Stacey, Labour's maestro of presentation.

The television and press photographers have to be looked after. Here, the trick is

to make sure they have access to clean shots during the speech, without upsetting one another or the audience. A good front page picture of the Prime Minister tells a thousand words. Last year we negotiated directly with the photographers, setting up ground rules for their positioning, and for the broadcasters

used diagrams to chart Blair's exit from the hall at the end of the speech. The previous year my predecessor had been punched on the nose by an over-exuberant snapper.

For the print media, a carefully crafted strategy is in place, beginning with briefing for the Sunday papers to set the tone of the week and anticipate some of the key points of the speech. Then late on Monday afternoon, Alastair Campbell and other members of the Prime Minister's press staff rang round the political editors, giving them, in so far as is possible, a different line from the speech for the next day's papers.

After Blair has sat down, journalists rush to the press office area for Campbell's informal post-speech briefing. At the same time, MPs and ministers spill out from the hall towards the television cameras for reaction. Everything is designed to reflect and build on the speech's content.

Yet in a way, the Parliamentary Report is an odd anachronism. In our media-driven times, political judgments are formed through a television set, not through long-winded speeches. Innovations are creeping in, such as the question and answer sessions pioneered by Blair and used effectively during John Major's final conference as Prime Minister last year. Despite Labour's reputation for leaving nothing to chance, the truth is that Blair is perhaps the only modern politician skilled to deal with such unscripted appearances. Perhaps these innovations will one day reach the Labour conference floor. But in politics, there is nothing like a good set-piece event, locked into the diary for months, an event where you are expected to show off your very best, but where the media coverage is guaranteed. That is why so much preparation goes into that short time, and why, old-fashioned though it may be, if the leader's speech didn't exist, it would have to be invented.

The author is an independent TV producer who was Labour's broadcasting officer from April 1996, until after the election.

PAPER ROUND

Richard Stott

Why her story had to be told

There is one immutable law in journalism: if you fashion a guideline, a rule, an instruction, something will come along sooner rather than later that will kick the whole thing up in the air. This week it happened and *The Times*, rather unusually, was the paper wearing the boot.

Only last week we all agreed, didn't we, that the days of intrusion, gratuitous privacy breaches and unjustified coverage of Diana's two children were over. A new age was open up, the newspapers, tabloids you understand, had learnt their lesson. Live and let live. The royals in particular must be allowed space to come to terms with the tragedy in their midst, a tragedy to which the tabloids had contributed to a greater or lesser degree depending on your point of view.

What then are we to make of *The Times's* decision to serialise the foreword to Andrew Morton's latest update of his seminal work *Diana — Her True Story*? It is no doubt true that Mr Morton, already a millionaire from his original publication, is cashing in on her death by revealing that she was the guiding light of the whole project.

It is also true that the BBC issued a video of the funeral and the profits do not go entirely to charity. There have already been countless glossy tributes and no doubt there are more to come; these are not produced to lose money. In death, Diana, Princess of Wales, is bigger money than she was in life. That's life.

What is also life is that newspapers are there to report facts, sometimes uncomfortable facts, sometimes facts people do not want to hear. But if we shy away from them because we are frightened to tell the truth because we fear the reaction, then that is a bigger threat to the credibility and freedom of newspapers than any tabloid excesses.

That is why *The Times* was right to publish Morton's foreword and any newspaper that carps about it is either doing so through commercial self-interest or suggesting we adopt a censorship cabal that breaks faith with its readers. We are there to tell you how it is and with Diana her close and covert co-operation with Morton was how it was, however much papers that despised her in life may now carol her sainthood in death.

We do her memory no service by attempting to caricature her as a saint hounded to death by yob newspapers. It

is not true. She used them and Morton because she was a deeply unhappy woman caught in a marriage she was never prepared for, wed to a man who was in love with another's wife. Once she realised that that there was no escape, a hideous cocktail of psychological and physical pain followed without any sympathy from her in-laws. That is why she went to Morton. That is why she revealed her condition and her unhappiness. This was Diana on the couch.

She wanted us to know about her vulnerability, her despair, her determination to survive in spite of the implacable face of Buckingham Palace. That she had to turn to Morton, a former tabloid reporter, shows the depth of that despair.

We do her no service by attacking Morton for writing the truth or *The Times* for publishing it. For the Royal Family to complain that this hinders the healing process for William and Harry is rich indeed: the wounds were opened years ago and the royals turned their backs on the bleeding. We will not be able to exorcise this horror unless we fully understand and accept what happened — from the moment Diana was selected as a virgin bride for a middle-aged man desperate for a wife with no "form".

None of these revelations reflects badly on Diana. She was no saint and was the first to admit it; that is one of the reasons why the people loved her. It is no accident that her privileged friends thought the *Panorama* interview was Diana at her worst while the rest of the country thought it Diana at her best.

This was a woman driven with pain, rejected by a family that could not understand the creature they helped to create, racked by self-doubt, always hovering on the brink of any abyss. This is what Morton's latest revelations show all too clearly. It is right we should know it and it is right that *The Times* should publish it.

But that is not enough. We must make sure this never happens again. We will not do that by blaming newspapers for telling us the fairytale was actually a nightmare. We will get nowhere by turning our backs on the truth. That is what the Queen, Prince Philip and Prince Charles did. And look what happened.

Richard Stott is a former Editor of the *Daily Mirror*, *The People* and *Today*.

In our final extract from *All Our Todays*, Paul Donovan describes one of the great double-acts on radio

Brian Redhead arrived at *Today* in 1975. A loquacious and boisterous Geordie, he had made his name in Manchester, or the Athens of the North, as he always liked to think of his adopted city. Editor of the *Manchester Evening News* for six years, he had left in a fit of pique after failing to win the editorship of its sister paper, *The Guardian*.

Both he and John Timpson were white, middle-class, middle-aged men who sent their children to fee-paying schools. Even today, Timpson says that the one thing they had in common was that they "both enjoyed showing off". Despite what the press quoted them as saying at the time, Timpson concedes now that they never became great friends. They never did much socialising and they never visited one another's homes in all their years together. The first and only time Timpson saw Redhead's home was at his funeral.

But the professional association they — eventually — enjoyed in the studio was as powerful as the personal gulf that stretched between them, and they grew into one of the greatest and best-loved partnerships in the history of broadcasting.

It was not simply that, to a nation with a ready ear for the nuances of class and district, they represented North and South, tenor and baritone, town and country; though certainly they did play on those differences in their ping-pong verbal exchanges. It was more fundamental than that: they had different senses of humour, different senses of what was important on and off the programme, different approaches to life.

Away from work, Redhead liked to do things. Timpson liked to do very little, except eat and sleep and potter about. Redhead was a serious man who saw public activity, and thus the public acts of politicians, and the polls which elected them, as vital to the nation's health. Timpson was profoundly bored by politics and politicians and much preferred to entertain with a quip or a joke, chuckling over innocent little advertisements such as "Eight thick sausages — Irish recipe" or unfortunate headlines like "Crash Course for Learner Drivers".

Redhead was a classic only child, vain and (literally) self-interested, proud of having won a place to Newcastle's Royal Grammar School and gone on to Downing College, Cambridge, where he took a first in Part I of his History

Unbeatable duo who enjoyed showing off



Timpson and Redhead: despite what was quoted in the press, they were not close friends

Tripes (but only a second in Part 2, which of course he did not mention).

Timpson, by contrast, had found academic work formidable hard, and at the age of 16 left Merchant Taylor's by mutual consent. He recalls: "The big difference as far as I was concerned was that Brian had risen to far drier heights in journalism than I had. I was slightly overawed when I first worked with him. I thought, my word, here's one of the great men of journalism and I'm put up here beside him. But that wore off after a bit. He was just another chap and one got through life."

Libby Purves (who presented *Today* from 1978-1981) remembers: "Brian was a chippy Geordie, up from the people and, God didn't he

know it, ex-newspaper editor. He used to go round saying he was the only real journalist here. He was verbally extremely acute, and mannered, and bumptious. He loved the networking, the conferences, the big meetings, the liked being on the inside track. John didn't give a stuff about being on the inside track.

"We used to collect Brianisms. There was a famous one when he was in Rhodesia and some kind of row had suddenly blown up overnight about sanctions-busting and he came on and said on the programme 'Yes, I told Peter Carrington [Lord Carrington, Foreign Secretary, 1979-82] about it this morning and he was as shocked as I was...'. We all used to fall about. 'I was speaking to a lady the other

day. The Queen actually... that was the apocryphal one."

On Thursday July 15, 1982, Brian's youngest son was killed in a road accident in France. William, "a golden youth" as his father described him, was 18 years old. He had just left Cheadle Hulme School, was going up to Cambridge the following October, and had his whole life before him.

The death of William, Timpson recalls, seemed to deepen Brian and bring out a gentle side to his character. "When he put aside his bluff exterior and all the intellectual stuff, he was a very sensitive chap, and this came out so much after his boy got killed, which was a terrible period. There wasn't a flicker from Brian for some time. He did his job, he did it extremely well, but the banter stopped. I don't think he got over it, but he put it behind him."

Timpson and Redhead went on to enjoy their finest period in the mid-1980s. Charles Nevill put it like this: "They are known to their audience as 'Me' and 'Him'... 'Me' is Redhead, ex-newspaper editor, talker, thinker, a man not given to ostentatious self-doubt. 'Him' is Timpson, an avuncular Aussie man."

But by the mid-1980s, Timpson was getting increasingly tired of the party conferences, the travel and the grind of getting up at four in the morning. Most irksome for him was the growing seriousness and, in his view, humourlessness of the programme, which stemmed chiefly from the nastiness of party politics and the growing hostility between the BBC and the Thatcher Government. His final programme, of nearly 3,000, was on Christmas Eve 1986.

Fresh into the job of editor, Jenny Abramsky had to find a presenter to succeed Timpson. "A friend of mine who worked in television said that John Humphrys was not happy co-presenting the *Nine O'Clock News* with Julia Somerville. So I rang him up and asked whether he'd come and have a chat. And then I rang Ron Neil, who was editor of television news, and said would he object if John Humphrys came and joined *Today* as a presenter? It was a very risky thing, because we couldn't try him out. I just had to take the gamble. John made the right judgment. A lot of his television colleagues thought he was bonkers. They just didn't realise the power of the *Today* programme, but John did."

● *All Our Todays* by Paul Donovan is published by Jonathan Cape on October 9, £15.99.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Stephen Fry

STEPHEN Fry, whose public face is internationally well known, reveals his private face in this *Times/Dillons* forum, on Tuesday October 7. He will be in conversation with Nicholas Wapshott. The discussion will cover his days at boarding school, the beatings he survived, the love he felt, the misery he suffered, his time in prison and his subsequent highly successful career. The forum, which marks the publication of his autobiography, *Mob is my Washpot* (Hutchinson, £16.99) will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 (concessions £7.50), which includes £2 off the price of the book. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions. Subject to demand this event will be interpreted in sign language.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Please send me _____ tickets at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for The *Times/Dillons* forum with Stephen Fry at 7.30pm on Tuesday, October 7, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1.

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NEWS

Blair's vision of a giving age

■ Tony Blair called on the people to muster their talents and compassion in a supreme national effort to make Britain the best in the world.

In the first conference speech by a Labour Prime Minister for 19 years, Mr Blair mapped out his vision of a country in which children were proud and happy, where they never went to school hungry, where pensioners did not have to skimp and save to survive. Pages 1, 6-9

Internment without trial to end

■ In a dramatic gesture to Sinn Féin, Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, announced that internment without trial would be removed from the statute book. She said "radical" new anti-terrorist legislation would no longer contain the power to intern suspected paramilitaries. Page 1

Beef ban setback

Britain's challenge to the ban on beef exports suffered a big setback when the European Court of Justice rejected government arguments. Page 2

Unionist split

The Ulster Unionist movement was deeply and bitterly divided after two of its three party leaders launched an all-out campaign to wreck the peace process. Page 2

Canberra retired

The last of a million passengers who have sailed on the cruise liner *Canberra* over 36 years disembarked at Southampton sad at the loss of a dear friend. Page 3

Operations shock

A fifth of all emergency operations at night are performed by unsupervised junior surgeons, and nearly half of the anaesthetists are trainees. Page 4

Moscow drugs trial

A British teenager who could face up to 15 years in a Russian labour camp for drug smuggling pleaded not guilty in a Moscow court at her retrial. Page 5

Homosexual rights

Equal employment rights for homosexuals are likely to be enshrined in European law after the European Court of Justice issued a finding in favour of a woman whose lesbian partner was denied free travel by her rail employer. Page 10

Revenue keeps track of new uniforms

■ Railway staff sporting chic uniforms may fall prey to the taxman investigating their new outfits. The Inland Revenue is to keep a close watch as train companies issue corporate uniforms to thousands of station and office staff, drivers and conductors. Work clothes deemed suitable for off-duty wear will be classed as a benefit in kind. Page 1

Soap sex scenes

Soap opera sex has trebled in three years. More than one in five scenes in *Emmerdale*, *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* have a sexual content. Page 10

Murdered nurse claim

A friend of Yvonne Gilford, the murdered Australian nurse, alleged that the British woman accused of her death was almost certainly guilty. Page 11

Explorer dispute

The publication of a book by the British philosopher David Selbourne, purporting to show that an Italian Jewish merchant visited China in 1270, has been postponed on the ground that the sources may be fake. Page 14

Snakes with legs

Snakes were once creeping creatures with tiny legs, researchers at Jerusalem's Hebrew University said after an examination of fossils. Page 14

Church apology

In an act of historical atonement, the French Roman Catholic Church offered an apology for the failure of its bishops to condemn the persecution of Jews during the occupation. Page 15

Polanski deal

The film director Roman Polanski, who fled America after having sex with a 13-year-old, could soon return under a deal sparing him jail time. Page 15



Seven bottlenose dolphins ride a wave at a beach south of Sydney. The photographer said he had been waiting all his life for such a shot

BUSINESS

Cordiant: The advertising company's 140 top executives could share about £150 million if they hit tough financial targets designed to create an "ownership culture". Page 25

Pensions: Friends Provident, one of the UK's biggest life insurance companies, has been fined a record £450,000 by City regulators for failing to deal with pensions mis-selling cases quickly enough. Page 25

Gifts: Leading players in the British government bond market are to protest about its alleged leaking of a price-sensitive story on the day after an auction. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 23.9 to 5244.2. Sterling rose from 100.2 to 100.4 after a fall from \$1.6168 to \$1.6153 but a rise from DM2.8438 to DM2.8525. Page 28

SPORT

Football: Paul Gascoigne has ventured again into difficult territory by comparing his suffering at the hands of the media to that of Diana, Princess of Wales. Page 48

Rugby union: Llanelli plan to appeal against the imposition of a £20,000 fine by the organisers of the Heineken Cup after their violent match against Pau. Page 45

Rugby league: Richard Branson has bought a controlling interest in London Broncos. When he first watched the Broncos, he liked it so much that he bought the company. Page 46

Sailing: Pete Goss and Raphael Dinelli, whom he rescued from certain death during the Vendée Globe challenge, are to join forces in a transatlantic race. Page 46

Blend spirit: Maddie is a pleasant musical with some agreeable songs, says Benedict Nightingale, but it could use more sophistication and less sentimentality. Page 32

Rising star: The jazz trombonist Alistair White has won a week's residency at Ronnie Scott's club in London and another week at New York's Blue Note. Page 32

Dance dame: At the age of 58 the legendary dancer Lynn Seymour is back on stage as the Wicked Stepmother in *Matthew Bourne's* contemporary *Cinderella*. Page 33

Picture this: The Tate Gallery has spent £1.6 million on a superb early Mondrian, *Church at Zoutelande*, painted at a turning point in the artist's development. Page 34

Longing for love: Andrew Morton's version of *Diana, Her True Story - In Her Own Words*, says that the Princess's image masked innermost need. Page 15

Swimming with sharks: "The behaviour changed dramatically. The serene swimmers became a scrum of fins and tails as they fought in a feeding frenzy," David Charter on a close encounter. Page 16

Heart of darkness: What drives people to commit wicked acts? Are torturers born or made? Page 22

Raymond Snoddy: A bit of newspaper history will be made when the *Darlington & Stockton Times* has news on Page 1. Page 22

Showing off: In the final extract from *All Our Todays*, Paul Donovan describes one of the great double-acts on radio, Brian Redhead and John Timpson. Page 23

House rules: Smart London estate agents are talking about "doing a Horlick" - buying a wreck, doing it up and moving on. Page 35

If this introspection is to be welcomed, it does not dispense the Church from being more attentive to the crimes of indifference or cowardice which are being committed today. Page 35

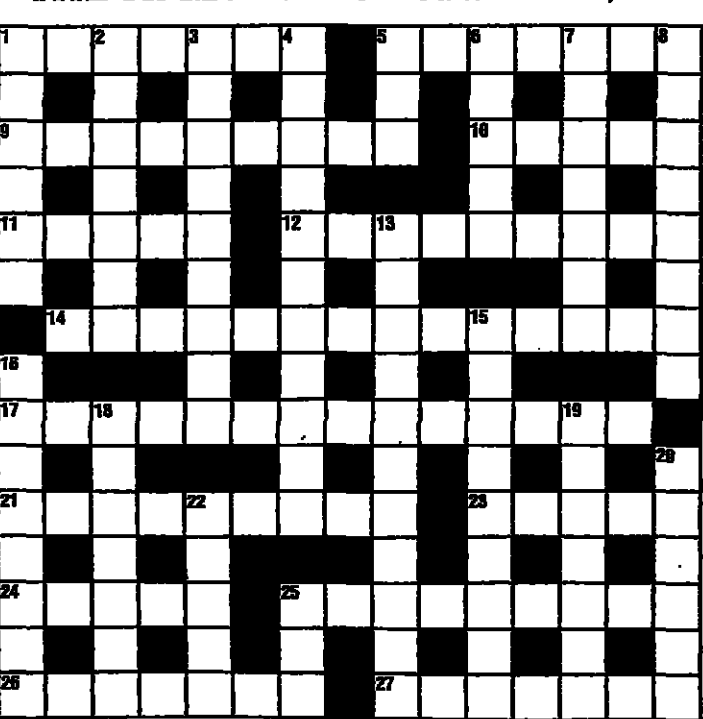
Lords reform; traffic pollution; opera houses; immigration queues; Ulster talks; table of generals; Blair and the Post office. Page 19

TOMORROW
IN THE TIMES

■ **FILMS**
Geoff Brown reviews *Volcano*, with Tommy Lee Jones and Anne Heche (left), plus other new releases

■ **BOOKS**
Peter Ackroyd on Andrew Motion's biography of Keats

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,599



- ACROSS**
- Put in place inches high (7).
 - Remedy making numbers right in stomach (7).
 - Helped good man before to get outwardly courageous (9).
 - Fury when financial supporter changes sides finally (5).
 - Fight and shout either side of river (5).
 - Rider with horses may be pale facing one fierce beast (9).
 - A charge that's something that is to be sneezed at? (10,4).
 - Remarkable castle three knights rated out of this world (14).
 - Daughter in role Mama originally had in play (9).
 - Opponents at table take action to get result (5).
 - Salary for worker in Pentonville? (5).
 - What MD should do to provide support after surgery (9).
- DOWN**
- I am introducing protection for young person consuming drug and drink (6).
 - Rescue wild person having drunk litre (7).
 - Wild animals bound to be trapped by stakes (9).
 - King Lear rasps on, going mad (4,7).
 - Agree with Captain Corcoran's formula? (3).
 - Religious teacher floated over one (5).
 - Music paper, American periodical (7).
 - Friend, with rain splashing in, appears to get soaked (8).
 - Performances requiring skilful movements of legs and arms (5,6).
 - See me among men born free - but not an insider (3,6).
 - Is very important lady after a man? One may spray perfume (8).
 - One offering for taxi boarded in a flap (7).
 - Sailor getting corrupt to stay off the run? (7).
 - Tamper with noise made by gong (6).
 - Stuck into front half of habitation there's round peg (5).
 - One may be bowled having got a ton (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,598

STEAMSHIP BUFF
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MARGO HACKNEY
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INFORMATION

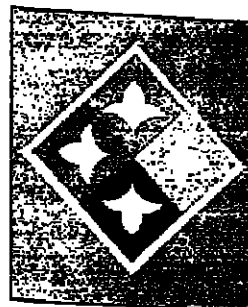
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

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Treasury faces protests over alleged gilts leak

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

LEADING players in the British government bond market are to protest to the Treasury about its alleged leaking of a price-sensitive story the day after an auction of gilts.

Although several large firms are believed to have turned hefty profits, a number of gilt market-makers made significant trading losses last Friday after the *Financial Times* reported that the Cabinet had shifted towards a more positive view of joining the single currency.

The *FT* report came the morning after a £15 billion auction of 8 per cent 25-year gilts. It dramatically changed the trading environment in the gilt market and badly wrong-footed many gilt market-makers.

When the auction was held, the perception was still that Britain remained sceptical of joining a single currency. Gilt market professionals tended to be positive about long-dated bonds, but were holding short positions in the short-dated and medium-dated maturities.

Friday's EMU report dramatically changed the relative attractive-

ness of different parts of the yield curve. Short-dated and medium-dated stocks rallied strongly while long bonds underperformed, leaving market-makers with completely the wrong positions.

The aftermath of the auction made matters worse. Although the sale appeared to have received a comfortable number of bids, there was little final customer demand and many market-makers were left with large amounts of long bonds on their books.

Most hedged these positions by selling gilt futures. When the EMU

story broke in the *FT*, futures prices soared.

Market-makers placed the blame for their losses on the Treasury, which they believe leaked the EMU report to the *FT*. Treasury officials have subsequently denied this, and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Robin Cook, Foreign Secretary, continue to insist that EMU policy has not changed.

One senior gilt trader said: "If it is a leak, then admit it is a leak. Don't sit there and deny it for four days. The whole thing is farcical." He expressed dismay that the

Treasury had not appeared sensitive to the repercussions for the gilt market so soon after an auction, and said that he would be making a complaint to the Treasury.

The Treasury is planning to take management of the national debt in-house by the beginning of the next financial year. This role currently resides with the Bank of England. The Bank yesterday declined to comment on the widespread unease being expressed by market makers.

One market-maker said yesterday: "This has been so badly handled. These losses are down to

the Treasury and the Bank of England. Somebody ought to have anticipated the repercussions so soon after an auction." However, the nature of political leaks is such that it is by no means certain that the Bank was kept informed.

□ The Bank yesterday announced plans for two further gilt auctions — on October 29 and November 26. The first auction will be of 7.25 per cent gilts maturing in 2007. The second will be in the maturity range of between 2003 and 2004.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5244.2 (+23.9)
Yield	3.11%
FTSE All share	2455.02 (+10.42)
Nikkei	17887.71 (+69.50)
New York	7945.25 (+42.17)
Dow Jones	947.28 (+6.06)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4% (5 3/4%)
Yield	6.41% (6.38%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	7 1/4% (7 1/4%)
12-month gilts	11 1/4% (11 1/4%)
Libor (3m)	11 1/4% (11 1/4%)

STERLING	
New York	1.6190 (1.6105)
London	1.6154 (1.6165)
DM	2.0510 (2.0425)
FF	9.5229 (9.5401)
Sfr	2.3460 (2.3473)
Yen	195.03 (195.25)
S index	100.1 (100.2)

DOLLAR	
London	1.7800 (1.7618)
DM	5.9100 (5.9165)
FF	1.4476 (1.4540)
Sfr	120.23 (120.88)
Yen	100.1 (100.2)

TOKYO CLOSING	
Nikkei	17887.71
Dow Jones	7945.25
Yen	195.03

BREXIT 15-day (Dec)	
£100	\$20.00 (\$20.00)
£100	\$20.00 (\$20.00)

LONDON CLOSING	
FTSE 100	5244.2
FTSE All share	2455.02

Record £450,000 fine for Friends

By CAROLINE MERRELL

FRIENDS PROVIDENT, one of the UK's biggest life insurance companies, has been fined a record £450,000 by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the regulator, for failing to deal with its pensions mis-selling cases quickly enough.

The company must also pay £20,000 costs. The PIA is considering disciplinary action against a further four companies over delays in compensating those who have been encouraged to give up rights to their employers' schemes in favour of taking out a personal pension.

Friends Provident said it had decided not to contest the PIA's action because it wanted to co-operate with its regulators. The company claimed that it had very few mis-selling cases compared with other companies involved in the review.

According to its figures, it has only 6,414 possible pensions cases, compared with more than 60,000 cases on the Prudential's books. The statement claimed: "The PIA has decided to fine and reprimand Friends Provident for its failure to meet the interim date of March 31, 1997 for its priority cases. Friends Provident is being judged as at a date retrospectively chosen by the PIA."

Four other companies had to meet compensation deadlines yesterday. These included Lloyds TSB, the Pru and Guardian. Lloyds TSB and Guardian said they had managed to meet this deadline. However, the Pru, which is regulated by the Securities and Investments Board, admitted that it had missed the first compensation deadline. It, however, will escape a fine because the SIB does not have the power to fine companies it regulates. A Prudential spokeswoman said it would sort out priority cases within weeks rather than months.

Earlier this week Midland Bank was fined £150,000 by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation for encouraging customers to transfer out of occupational schemes in order to take out a personal pension.

Cordiant executives in line for £150m demerger payout

By RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

CORDIANT'S 140 top executives could share about £150 million if they hit tough financial targets designed to create an "ownership culture", after the demerger of the international advertising group.

Shareholders were given details yesterday of the demerger plan under which Saatchi & Saatchi will become a separate listed company and Cordiant will change its name to Cordiant Communications.

The Saatchi & Saatchi business will mainly be made up of the Saatchi & Saatchi Worldwide advertising network and CCG will be mainly Bates Worldwide, the United States advertising group acquired by Saatchi's in 1986.

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About 70 people in each of the two separate companies will be able to take part in the incentive scheme and those involved will pay up to a maximum of £150,000 in cash after giving up bonus entitlements.

If there is no growth in earnings per share, the executives will lose their money. Five per cent growth will mean no additional return. If earnings per share growth averages 25 per cent a year to the year 2001, a £50,000 stake in the scheme will turn into £300,000.

The executive directors who will invest £150,000 could, in theory, get as much as £2.4 million each spread over two years.

However, they have an additional hurdle to get over to receive the maximum payout. Half of their awards will depend on total shareholder



Michael Bungey, left, and Bob Seclert flank Charlie Scott, the chairman of Cordiant Communications Group, as they announce the demerger

return measured against nine peer companies.

Michael Bungey, the chief executive of Cordiant Communications Group, yesterday said that, to achieve the target, the two companies would have to be the leaders worldwide in the advertising industry in the return to investors.

"It's a tall order. If we do it, the shareholders will be in the Bahamas," said Mr Bungey, a

Briton who will be running the more US-orientated Cordiant Communications.

Bob Seclert, an American who will be in charge of Saatchi & Saatchi, historically the more British-orientated part of the international business, explained yesterday that the aim of the demerger was "more than anything about getting the companies on their front foot for the future".

Many people date the diffi-

culties of the Saatchi brothers, Maurice and Charles, from the decision to buy Bates in the United States, and the loss of business that resulted from feared conflicts of commercial interest.

Other cultural differences are less marked now, Mr Seclert notes that Saatchi's had a "we can do the impossible" culture, while Bates was more traditional and more business-orientated.

The City believes that the demerger, under which shareholders will receive one share in each company for every two present Cordiant shares, will add immediately to value.

A share price of 75p to 85p is being forecast for each entity, compared with Cordiant's £1.20 at present.

Cordiant yesterday revealed strong profit growth for the six months to the end of June — a 30.3 per cent rise in pre-tax

profit to £20.2 million on revenue up 7 per cent to £339.9 million.

Zenith, the group's media planning and buying arm, which will be owned 50-50 by the demerged companies, had earnings before tax and interest of £8.3 million.

Subject to shareholder approval, separate dealing in the shares of both companies will begin in London on December 15.

Stanford Rook's 'miracle cure' for TB fails

By PAUL DURMAN

BRITAIN'S biotechnology industry suffered another blow yesterday when Stanford Rook, a company backed by University College London, revealed that its tuberculosis drug did not work.

The drug, based on the M vaccine bacterium, was almost entirely responsible for the £100 million valuation placed on Stanford Rook, which

had ranked it as seventh-largest company on the Alternative Investment Market. The bad news from phase three trials in South Africa caused the company's shares to plummet from 540p to 150p.

Although a favourite of speculators, with its shares often tipped by newspapers, medical experts had previously cast doubt on the validity of Stanford Rook's claims. Scientists from the World Health Organisation

and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine have questioned the quality of the early work on M vaccine, while the company's former managing director has said he refused to take part in its flotation because of the extent of his doubts.

Stanford Rook was the centre of controversy last year because of a press release describing it as the "miracle TB cure company". The company has always denied it was re-

sponsible, blaming the release on an over-enthusiastic freelance journalist. Melvyn Davies, finance director, said the company still had a future, and hoped to use the drug to treat cancer and allergies such as hayfever. He added: "We still think the drug is effective in boosting the immune system. We have not been able to prove it works in this trial of TB."

The South African trial found the drug showed no signs of efficacy on

any of several clinical measures. Mr Davies said that the company still has nearly £6 million, and is spending £2 million a year. However, it will now have to seek partners to develop its other projects.

University College made about £4.5 million last year when it sold half its stake in Stanford to Peter Young, the Morgan Grenfell fund manager. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell sold its 11 per cent holding earlier this year.

Biggest bookseller heads for Britain

By JON ASHWORTH

BARNES & NOBLE, the world's largest bookseller, is close to announcing a multi-million-pound venture in the UK book market, bringing it head-to-head with established players such as Dillons, Waterstone's and WH Smith.

A 15-strong British team, led by Mark Gould, formerly of Dixons and John Menzies, has been investigating potential sites for the American company, which pioneered the book "superstore" in the US. The team is understood to have pinned down several UK locations. Investment would run to millions of pounds, creating hundreds of jobs.

The move would pit Barnes & Noble against Borders Group, its main US rival, which is buying Books etc, the London-based book chain, for £40 million. The deal promises to hasten a trend towards US-style bookselling, involving stores equipped with coffee shops and lounges. Waterstone's, owned by W H Smith, has just opened a superstore in Glasgow — the biggest bookshop to open in the UK in 50 years — featuring CD listening booths and Internet browsing facilities.

Barnes said that nothing had been finalised on UK sites. A spokesman said: "We have not signed any leases. We are in an exploratory stage."

Barnes & Noble is the leading operator of book superstores in America, with 454 stores and a further 559 outlets in shopping malls.

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Beckett gets Millennium bug



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The sound of the Millennium time bomb ticking has reached Margaret Beckett and she is stumping up £1 million to help industry defuse the problem. It would appear that she is also gently sidelining Robin Guernier, who has made the issue a personal crusade. His Taskforce 2000 is to be superseded by Action 2000 and although its leader has still been revealed, the only certainty is that it is not R. Guernier.

Mr Guernier is a true believer in the Millennium bug and its capacity to wreak havoc everywhere from nuclear power stations to the kitchen fridge. He has painted so appalling a picture that more measured individuals have dismissed him as a scaremonger. In so doing, they may have been in danger of dismissing a problem that is undeniably real.

Major institutions have woken up to the risks inherent in their chips and are investing heavily in adapting technology to the new century. But they are aware that many client companies are choosing to ignore the problems and fear that the bug could prove infectious even for those who have tried to protect themselves against the disease.

Mr Guernier was apt to talk about a multibillion-pound liability and riots in the streets as the potential result of failing to address the Millennium problem. He was surely erring on the high side. But it is only the true

optimist who will believe that Mrs Beckett's £1 million will be enough to put things right.

This is likely to produce an extraordinary effect in the financial market as we head towards the end of the century. What investment banker or broker is going to be prepared to hear the stroke of midnight on December 31, 1999, in the knowledge that he has on his books some dangerously open positions?

Exposure to risk may be part of the normal line of duty but exposure to the potential domino effect of the Millennium bug on settlement systems is likely to be regarded as a risk too far. So the prospect of international financial markets drawing to an abrupt New Year's Eve halt. The outcome of such an artificial interruption would be abnormal and impossible to predict.

There are some complacent bodies who believe that they have already done all that is necessary to ensure that their systems will cope with the change of century. They should take note of the story currently amusing City lunch tables about the bank that felt it was ahead of the game. So sure was it that every last chip was properly programmed that one recent Saturday it pulled in

its coffers for a make-believe New Year's Eve test run. They had no difficulty speeding the computer clock forward to the fateful moment but that is when the funds stopped. The efficient systems required regular verification of passwords. Not having had it for several years, they were unable to recognise the codes for those clever souls who were about to venture into the new dawn. A chorus of Auld Lang Syne provided little comfort.

Belated justice is just for bureaucrats

Ernie, famed generator of random premium bond prizes, would surely have understood the fines now being levied by City regulators on life assurance companies for selling people the wrong pension schemes. So would Ernie's 1990s offspring, machines such as Galahad, Lancelot and Arthur

that are pulsed into action to throw up winning numbers for the National Lottery. Only cynics, who have no place in this column, could possibly rival them.

One explanation might be that regulators are trying to justify themselves and their possible roles in the single City regulator now being set up by Howard Davies. They are trying to sound tough years after they should have been to fulfil their early mission to protect consumers.

The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) has come a long way since it failed to spot the likelihood of Robert Maxwell playing his employees' pension funds. Neither Imro's reputation, nor that of its boss Phillip Thorpe, have been improved by the £50,000 fine imposed this week on HSBC, the world top banking group, over policies sold before 1993.

This is not timely justice, nor is it a useful deterrent. HSBC's Midland Bank subsidiary was a small player in pensions and has already dealt with most of its mistakes, providing £45 million for possible compensation to a modest number of clients. Imro's main purpose was to wrap up its investigation into pension mis-selling, which has resulted in fines for a massive six firms.

Yesterday's regulatory showstopper was a £450,000 fine imposed on Friends Provident by Colette Bowe's ill-starred Personal Investment Authority. Does this record fine point a finger of justice at unparalleled exploitation by the virtuously named mutual? Not exactly. Friends does not feature in the top ten for mis-selling. It is not being fined for mis-selling but for being too slow in settling possible cases before the new Government imposed some real deadlines. The PIA accepts that Friends allocated more resources to its review than others, that some delay was outside its control and most cases were in-

herited from firms it absorbed. Four other firms are in the firing line.

PIA is another rightly maligned regulator belatedly trying to justify its doomed existence. Sympathy need not be wasted on pension providers. But this has all to do with the inner life of bureaucracy, little to do with the welfare of customers.

Entente Cordant

So farewell then, Cordant plc. Your passing will not be much mourned. There will certainly be no need of tears among the staff since the demise of the company will not, it seems, occasion job losses.

The talk in Adland is not of cost-saving but of motivating, hence some generous incentive packages to encourage executives to do their jobs.

Judging by some of the jargon-filled prose on offer yesterday, the team could certainly do with motivating. Michael Bunney, chief executive of the new Cordiant Communications Group, which will include the Bates Worldwide network, announces: "We are the unique

selling proposition agency with a few 'USPs' of our own."

In spite of such uninspiring advertising, Saatchi & Saatchi and Bates must benefit from being given their independence from each other. Already the first signs of their widening market has been evidenced by Cussins' decision to go with Bates despite Saatchi's Procter & Gamble link.

But the agencies start out on their independent path with a level of debt that younger rivals — including M & C Saatchi — might find daunting. Although investors will probably be prepared to accept the need to offer the prospect of a small fortune to 140 executives in return for their best efforts, there will be qualms if insufficient attention is paid to good housekeeping. There are too many who remember the Saatchi & Saatchi fall from grace and will not wish it a second time under new leaders.

Horror story

IF Richard Handover, the new chief executive of WH Smith, thought things could not possibly get any worse he was wrong. His in-tray is laden with dossiers that contain enough material to give him sleepless nights. Tesco is selling cut-price magazines, Books etc has fallen to an ambitious US company with deep pockets, and now Barnes & Noble unveils plans for a chain of book superstores in competition with Waterstones. Happy days.

Court forces ITT to drop plan for split in \$8bn bid defence

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

ITT CORP, the US leisure group, has dropped a key part of its "poison pill" defence strategy against a hostile \$8.3 billion (£5 billion) takeover bid by Hilton Hotels.

After a court ruling in Las Vegas, ITT agreed to hold a shareholder ballot on a three-way split plan designed to spoil the takeover.

ITT has fought against shareholder involvement for months, but after the ruling, it said: "We look forward to and welcome a shareholder vote. We remain highly confident that the ITT plan provides greater shareholder value."

US District Judge Phillip Pro issued an injunction against ITT's split plans because the management did not intend to give shareholders a say in the decision. He did not object to the split per se. A shareholder meeting must be held by November 14.

Wall Street took the developments as a sign that Hilton will succeed and ITT shares rose 8 per cent.

Steve Bollenbach, Hilton chairman said: "My hope is that the management of ITT will work with us to structure this transaction to maximise the value to all shareholders."

will attempt to contact them to try to do that."

Judge Pro ruled that ITT's attempt to stagger the period in office of its board as part of the plan amounted to taking away from shareholders the rights that they acquired by buying the shares. He also said ITT had had plenty of time to get shareholder approval and should have done so.

ITT's plan, revealed in July, called for it to split into three companies: one for hotels and gaming operations, a second for educational services and a third for world telephone directories. The split was to have taken place via a special one-off dividend to shareholders, which is legal under Nevada law.

Hilton argued that federal case law prohibited companies from breaking apart via a special dividend during a takeover battle.

ITT owns and operates Sheraton Hotels and Casinos Castanos. Hilton owns and operates Hilton Hotels in the US and Bally's Casinos. A combination of the two would create the world's largest hotel and casino company.

Hilton launched its bid for ITT in January at \$55 per share in cash and stock. ITT responded by selling assets, raising cash and delaying its annual meeting. When the company unveiled its plan in July, it also said it would buy back 30 million shares, or about 26 per cent of the outstanding amount at that time, for \$70 a share.



James Moore, chief executive of Cornwall Parker, makers of Parker Knoll furniture, which is considering expanding into the Far East, after turning a £1.1 million loss into a pre-tax profit of £12.12 million. The

company, which could manufacture in Malaysia, Thailand or Indonesia, will pay a final dividend on November 1 of 2p (0.7p) making a total of 3p (1p). Earnings were 21p a share (4.3p loss).

Change of focus as Trocadero slips

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TROCADERO, the struggling leisure group, fell into the red in the first half of this year as its Segaworld indoor theme park in London's West End failed to take off.

John Conlan, the former head of First Leisure who joined as chairman two months ago, said that he is working closely with Japan's Sega, which operates Segaworld, to turn the business around. "It is a question of basic operating principles that have worked in the past," he said.

The company, which was previously chaired by the entrepreneur Nigel Wray, made a pre-tax loss of £465,000 in the six months to June 30 from a 1995,000 profit in the first half of last year. It made a loss per share of 0.17p and will not pay an interim dividend. Segaworld cost Trocadero £59,000 in the first half and a further £17,000 in startup costs will be written off in the second half.

Two more attractions at the Trocadero leisure complex are due to open in the coming months. A 3D cinema will open in December and a giant drop ride is due to start operating next Spring.

Mr Conlan insisted that the focus of the group — which has sold its main asset, the Trocadero property, back to Burford, the property group from which it was demerged two years ago — would be on other activities from now on. "The group's cash will go on areas outside the Trocadero," he said.

The company is looking to make further acquisitions in line with its ownership of the rights to Enid Blyton's works.

Compensation to TLG head tops £330,000

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TLG, formerly known as Thorn Lighting Group, faces paying compensation of up to £330,000 to Thierry Vaysette after asking him to quit his job as managing director.

The company said that it did not feel M Vaysette, who was on an 18-month contract and paid an annual £222,000, was the right manager to take the business forward.

Hamish Bryce, the executive chairman, will take over M Vaysette's responsibilities, becoming chairman and chief executive. He said his role would be to "bring a more flexible and dynamic approach" to the company.

The company's European directors, who formerly reported to M Vaysette, will now report to Mr Bryce, who was already directly responsible for the company's Far East operations.

The company accompanied the news of M Vaysette's departure with a statement saying that current trading is in line with expectations. Analysts are forecasting pre-tax profits for the year of £22.5 million to £25 million.

TLG said that plans to close a German strip lighting factory, which led to a £13.5 million charge in the last financial year,

are on track. The closure is likely to be completed in the middle of next year.

TLG said "the board is confident that the development of the group's businesses places TLG in a strong position in prevailing market conditions." Its shares rose 1p to 114½p.

Tempos, page 28

WBB profits stagnant

WATTS Blake Bearne, the world's largest supplier of ball clay, failed to deliver any profits growth for the first time in six years after the soaring pound wiped almost 10 per cent from its sales and profits at the interim stage (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company, which generates 91 per cent of its sales from overseas markets, said currency effects claimed £4.5 million from its turnover, leaving pre-tax profits stagnant at £5.47 million in the first six months of the year.

Saville cashes in at SHL placing

By GEORGE SIVELL

PETER SAVILLE cashed in £16.7 million of shares yesterday as the market placing of SHL, the psychometric testing company that he chairs, got under way.

Mr Saville, who founded SHL in 1977 with Roger Holdsworth, is sitting on a further 6.3 million shares, or 12.8 per cent of the company, worth 245p at yesterday's placing price.

Dealings in SHL get under way next week. Mr Holdsworth, who sold shares in SHL some time ago for personal reasons, is

keeping his existing holding of 4.5 per cent, worth £5.39 million.

Mr Saville and Mr Holdsworth are psychologists who set up the company to take advantage of the need for psychometric tests by companies to try out potential recruits. SHL clients include 60 of the FTSE 100 companies.

SHL is worth £130.6 million at the 245p placing price. It is standing on an earnings multiple of 18.7 times forecast earnings for the year to September 30.

Fees scale profits down at Boosey

By JON ASHWORTH

FEES to bankers and lawyers have knocked £566,000 off profits at Boosey and Hawkes, the embattled music publisher and instrument maker, but underlying performance remains strong.

Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, and Slaughter and May, the City law firm, have spent six months assessing potential bids for a controlling interest in Boosey and Hawkes. Carl Fischer, a New

York-based music house, is seeking to sell its 43.5 per cent stake in the company. It announced last week that offers received so far had been "materially" below the current share price, triggering a sharp fall in the shares.

Fees to advisers, together with £360,000 lost in translating foreign earnings into sterling, saw pre-tax profits slip to £1.76 million (£2.05 million) in the six months to June 30. Sales increased 4.5 per cent to £44.1 million. Richard Holland, chief

executive, defended the advisers' fees, saying: "We do need to be properly advised and properly informed."

Earnings per share were 8.8 pence lower at 5.80p (6.36p). Without the special costs, earnings would have been 26.6 pence higher at 8.05p. There is an interim dividend of 2.17p (0.91) a share.

The shares, which peaked at £10.62½ in August, and suffered a 12 per cent fall last week, fell further yesterday, ending 37½p lower at 787½.

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Rub of the Brown upsets gilt market-makers

Nothing could have been more effective in bringing down the value of sterling than a suggestion that Labour is warming to a single currency, placed with a journalist whose information on Treasury goings-on has been reliable in the past.

The pound has been rising against European currencies because of the relative strength of the British economy and relatively high interest rates. But it has also attracted a premium because of the assumption that it would not join a single currency, at least for some years.

Some old and wise hands in the City assume that Friday's stick of dynamite in the *Financial Times* office, and fierce denials from his advisers have done nothing to shift this assumption. What is more interesting still is the strong perception that the story was designed — if it was deliberately

leaked — not just as a piece of political gamesmanship between different governmental power-bases but as a deliberate piece of market massaging.

Stephen Lewis of London Bond Broking said he believed that "the Brown offensive had less to do with EMU policy than with overall economic strategy". He noted that the pound had been pushing higher for several days before the EMU story appeared, that the Chancellor and the Bank of England would prefer to see a different monetary policy mix with a more competitive exchange rate to help exporters, but higher short-term interest rates to keep consumer spending in check.

Mr Lewis goes on: "The EMU story helps to engineer this shift. It

also helps to push down long-term interest rates. Mr Brown's presentation of policy, from his announcement of Bank of England operational independence to the latest EMU leak, appears to be aimed primarily at lowering long-term gilt yields."

Mr Brown has an eminent role model, if this is his intent. The Bundesbank has been a masterly manipulator of the German currency and bond yields. About 18 months ago, when the clever money was on EMU being called off and the mark was soaring as a result, the Bundesbank would casually toss positive comments to the markets about EMU being on track. This verbal massaging of the markets had the desired effect of preventing the mark from



JANET BUSH

becoming even more damagingly overvalued at a time when German exporters were hurting.

Influencing the markets is not a risk-free endeavour. In the latest case, the days of denials and ambiguity probably leave the bull case for the pound intact unless Labour comes up with a public

and concrete change in its EMU policy. Sections of the City are extremely cross, undoing some of the sterling work put in by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown to convince the Square Mile that Labour understands the City and is the party of business.

Gilt market-makers are feeling particularly sore because the FT story wrong-footed so many of them so badly. It ran on the day after a gilt auction that had left many market-makers with large amounts of long bonds on their books. Most duly hedged their exposure by selling gilt futures, a normal reaction to a less than sparkling auction.

A perception that EMU entry for Britain was way off had meant that gilt traders were happy to

hold long bonds on their books and keep short positions in short and medium-dated securities. But the FT story changed these relative values. Many gilt houses lost out twice. Their long bonds rallied relatively little compared with shorter maturities. And they had sold gilt futures, which soon showed dramatic gains.

Whether through blind luck or brilliant judgment, Goldman Sachs is reported to have ploughed an independent and extremely profitable furrow at the end of last week. Far from hedging its cash gilt position by selling futures, it seems to have taken a massive bet that the market was going up and bought futures in large amounts. Several of its competitors are sporting

green eyes and red faces and wondering how Goldman got it so right when they got it so wrong.

There is always resentment when traders find themselves spectacularly on the wrong end of unexpected news, widespread when the losses are widespread. But the gilt market has an objective point about the new Treasury. As Gordon Brown and his colleagues are fond of pointing out with rights come responsibilities. Now that the Treasury is planning to take management of the national debt away from the Bank of England and bring it in-house, it also has a duty to make sure that unexpected policy announcements do not unduly hurt those market professionals whose role it is to give liquidity to the gilt market and so, ultimately, keep the cost of servicing the public debt as low as possible. Leaking stories and then denying them does not help.

Reputations go on trial in the bitter tale of Queens at court

Dominic Walsh
looks at the background to the QMH legal action

As drive through the country lanes and streets of Essex provides a constant reminder of the way that John Baird, the fallen idol of the county's business community, once held.

Everywhere you go are "for sale" signs emblazoned with the name of Baird's Eves, the estate agency, while Romford houses the headquarters of Queens Moat Houses, one of Europe's largest hotel groups. Both companies were founded by Mr Baird and developed into multimillion-pound businesses. A classic case of the self-made Essex man.

But while Baird's Eves, founded in Brentwood in 1953 when Mr Baird was just 23, was eventually sold to Hambros for £90 million, QMH met a very different fate. On March 31, 1993, Mr Baird was forced to issue a statement through the Stock Exchange: "The directors of Queens Moat Houses have requested that the shares in QMH be suspended pending clarification of the company's financial position."

That statement was to set in train events that led to the principal directors being sacked, the reporting of the biggest corporate loss in British history and a legal process that will finally begin in earnest in the High Court on Friday.

At issue are the sackings of John Baird and three other former directors: Martin Marcus, David Hersey and Allan Porter. The company contends that the four, who are claiming unfair dismissal, were guilty of serious misconduct. The men claim they were the victims of a conspiracy by the banks and new management to gain control. In effect, Mr Baird and his former colleagues are accusing the current board, led by Andrew Coppel, chief executive, of being responsible for the perilous state in which the company still finds itself.

For John Baird this claim is not simply about getting the salary and pension rights to which he believes he is entitled. For despite getting the value of his holding almost wiped out by



John Baird is proud of his achievement in building QMH up from scratch to 190 hotels over 25 years

the financial reconstruction he remains a wealthy man. His pursuit of vindication is more to do with restoring a business reputation built up over more than 40 years.

Although the former chairman is proud of his achievement in building QMH up from scratch to 190 hotels over 25 years, some commentators believe the seeds of the later problems were sown at a fairly early stage. The first hotel, the Brentwood Moat House (now sold on and renamed Marygreen Manor) was originally bought by him and his wife Joyce as a home, but the decision by Ford Motor Company to develop an office complex nearby persuaded him he could make money out of turning it into a hotel. Such was Moat House's subsequent rate of growth that in 1972 it was approached by the publicly quoted Queens Modern Hotels over a merger, with Mr Baird emerging as head of the enlarged group and the biggest individual shareholder.

Although expansion continued, the mid-1970s recession almost brought the company to its knees. Only a belt-tightening and the goodwill of Barclays Bank gave Mr Baird the

breathing space he needed. QMH returned to the expansion trail and there was a period in the 1980s when hardly a week passed without new hotels being added. During that decade the market capitalisation rose to about £700 million, but at the same time debts were mounting up.

Very soon, a company that had come to be regarded as one of the stock market's stars was beginning to cause furrowed brows. These fears were heightened when, at a results briefing with analysts in August 1992,

reference was made to continued growth. What QMH had in mind was a deal with Bass whereby QMH would take on the Holiday Inn franchise for much of Europe with Bass taking a big stake in QMH. Although rumours of the deal reached the press, they were unconfirmed and fears over the company's investment plans continued to swirl.

The details of what happened in the run-up to that fateful announcement to the Stock Exchange are still sketchy, but it would appear the first tremor

was caused by the late arrival of accounts from QMH's continental operations. When they finally arrived it was apparent they were below expectations. At the same time it emerged that, as a result of a technical error, preference shareholders would not receive their dividends on time. It was also clear that the group's incentive management scheme was running into problems. Under this scheme, some managers paid an agreed fee to head office and were allowed to keep any profit over and above that fee for themselves. But when the recession arrived, it meant some became unable to pay the fee. QMH's system of booking the fee to profits in advance became a severe problem.

It was at this point that Mr Baird went to the company's bankers, Barclays and NatWest, to explain the situation, as a result of which he requested that trading in QMH shares be suspended.

If Mr Baird imagined they would give him the same leeway as in the 1970s he was mistaken. The banks immediately appointed Grant Thornton, the accountancy firm, to prepare a report, and Martin Marcus, deputy chairman and

Value	Valuer	As at	Where
£1,668m	Weatherall Green & Smith	31.12.90	Published accounts
£2,033m	Weatherall Green & Smith	31.12.91	Published accounts
£1,860m	Weatherall Green & Smith	31.12.92	Draft for board
£1,350m	Weatherall Green & Smith	31.12.92	Draft for banks
£740m	Jones Lang Wootton	31.12.92	Draft for new board
£981m	Jones Lang Wootton	31.12.92	Published accounts
£915m	Jones Lang Wootton	02.01.94	Published accounts

Damp squib

IF YOU bump into Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, in Brighton, resist the urge to ask about the Project Taskforce relaunch. I hear he is still a little touchy on the subject. The taskforce was set up in response to the Malcolm Bates review of the PFI, which has not been too successful of late. Robinson took it into his head to use the appointment as members of the taskforce

last week of six unknown men in suits, and one woman, to kick-start the thing.

A glitzy press conference for the nationals was arranged. Robinson, described to me by my informant — cruelly I am sure — as "a man with an ego the size of the Treasury", took his place on the podium. So did Adrian Montague, the Dresden Kleinwort Benson banker cunningly lured by means of a mega-thousand pound pay cut to run the taskforce. The suits (and woman) were arranged on either side. The lights were on, the autocue running.

The journalists arrived. One from *Construction News*, the second from some even more obscure trade journal. Robinson went through with the whole charade; the embarrassed hacks were prompted to ask a couple of questions. "Pathetic", Robinson raged to his officials later. They blamed the press office, who are now in deep trouble.

□ I HEAR a funny story about the Teletubbies. One of our biggest toy chains offered to



buy the entire range of spin-off toys being marketed this autumn. The lot. The aim was to make the chain the sole source of Teletubbies, and so the most destination for every parent this Christmas, where they could be parted from whatever else they planned to spend on the kiddies at the same time. It all came to nothing because the people making the stuff caught on.

Another story about this sinister cult. It's well in its talks with the BBC about making Teletubbies. An unnamed food manufacturer is also being canvassed to make Teletubbies, marked with the

imprint of these strangely epic creatures. I only mention it because, if you have children of the right age, you might as well hear it from me first.

Comic turn

GARTMORE's annual investment conference yesterday was enlivened by the actors John Bird and John Fortune, and their skit on a harassed City fund manager whose clients keep asking him technical questions. "Like, where's my money?" "And what do you say?" "I usually explain that markets go in cycles, they go up and down, they get punctured. But they keep asking technical questions. Like where's my money?" "And what do you say?" "I say, George Soros has got it. He's got everybody else's."

□ THERE arrives probably the year's most pompous announcement, from an unknown Canadian steel producer, headlined "Sidbec Dosco (Ispari) Inc changes name to Ispari Sidbec Inc". Somebody had a bad Scrabble hand when they dreamt that one up. The name change reinforces its "commitment to excellence", and there is now a

"wide acceptance by the world investment community". Says L. N. Mittal, chairman, portentously: "Ispari Sidbec is no stranger to such success." Beyond parody.

Split ends

A SENIOR partner at Coopers & Lybrand has landed himself a directorship at Cranfield School of Management. This would usually be a full-time job but Alan Waller, no relation, is staying on at Coopers and shuttling between the two. This rather suggests fence-sitting, given the uncertainties over who will end up on top from the merger with Price Waterhouse. "Nothing whatsoever to do with the merger," he says. "There's a lot of synergy here. Each is half, but there's a lot of cross-fertilisation between the two." (I did mention that he is a management consultant, didn't I?)

So he spends half his time at Coopers and half as director of the Cranfield Centre for Logistics and Transportation. This sounds like the science of making sure lorries arrive on time. But I am told it is much more complicated than that.

MARTIN WALLER

BUSINESS LETTERS

The hidden costs of self-assessment need not be an unpleasant surprise

From Mr Rob Gillies

Sir, I read with interest the Accountancy column of September 18, and particularly Andrew Meeson's article concerning self-assessment.

While the system of self-assessment is, in theory, simple and "uncontroversial" the fact remains that most people do not understand the tax system in sufficient detail to be able to negotiate with the Inland Revenue and to defend their position. Therefore, they will necessarily incur bills from professional advisors to undertake the work on their behalf. This includes private individuals and the self-employed, who Mr Meeson identifies as being a particular target.

Accountants and other tax advisors will, I am sure, be only too happy with this situation. The more enlightened, however, will have put a scheme in place to give their clients insurance protection from these unexpected fees and, to their own benefit, ensure that funds are available with which to pay those

fees. Fee protection insurance is not a new concept but there are still large numbers of accountants that have not arranged cover for their clients. Self-assessment has only served to highlight this situation.

With cover available at a very low cost, one wonders whether those advisers who do not make this insurance available are really serving the interests of their clients in this regard.

As an insurance intermediary, we work closely with accountancy and other professional practices to produce solutions to their and their clients' insurance problems. Fee protection insurance is one of our leading products at this time and I enclose some information should you feel this would be of interest to your readership. Yours faithfully, ROB GILLIES, Director, Campbell Patricks & Co Ltd, York House, Western Road, Romford, Essex.

Extra funding for Tube must wait until 1999

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, You report ("Blair to back break-up of Tube before sell-off", September 24) on discussions between the Treasury and the Department of Transport (DoT), regarding a proposal for increased funding for the Tube in 1998-99.

Seemingly the Treasury has told the DoT that it is prepared to look "sympathetically" at this proposal, apparently on the grounds that the extra funding could be offset by new charges on parking and motoring in London.

Unfortunately, this idea appears a non-starter. The Treasury is bound, by Labour's general election manifesto, to keep public spending within existing de-

partmental limits for the years 1997-98 and 1998-99. Any additional tax revenue raised by parking-motoring charges would score in the Treasury books as extra income, and could not be used to fund additional expenditure. Taxes can go up in these two years, but expenditure cannot.

Regrettably, the Tube will just have to be left (in your words) to "crumble" until April 1999 at the earliest. In the meantime, it appears that the Treasury is being somewhat disingenuous in its dealings with the DoT.

Yours faithfully, M. C. FITZPATRICK, Head of Economics, Chantrey Vellacott, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, WCI.

No retrospective relief for mis-selling victims

From Mr A.B. Craven

Sir, The news (*The Times*, September 18) that the Treasury is to repeal, where possible, the Financial Services Act, the Banking Act, the Building Societies Act and the Policyholders Protection Act will be of tremendous help and relief to future investors and borrowers.

It is a matter of concern that retrospective legislation is im-

possible for those latterly mis-sold pension schemes and home income plans of the 1980s. It would seem that they have acted as the diving board for the new swimming pool of financial regulation.

Yours faithfully, A.B. CRAVEN, White Cottage, Elstow, Burton Pidsea, Hull.

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Musical spirit more bland than blithe

There have been movies in which parents are magically transformed into their own children and children into their parents, and one or two have been quite funny. So why not a stage musical in which an earnest wife is possessed by the spirit of a wild, brash flapper who died in a car crash in the 1920s? There are plenty of opportunities for comedy in such a situation. There is even a chance of a little psychosexual exploration, if the authors are bold enough to seize it.

Though their *Maddie* emerged from masterclasses at Oxford with Stephen Sondheim — in whose work wit and sexual darkness go together in the horse-and-carriage style once associated with love and marriage — composer Stephen Keeling and librettists Shaun McKenna and Steven Dexter embrace few of the opportunities open to them. They have created a pleasant little musical with some attractive, agreeable hums stuck between some diverting chatter; but for my taste the sophistication level is a bit too low and the sentimentality rate rather too high.

Summer Rognlie's Jan and Graham Bickley's Nick have moved their marital home into an old apartment in San Francisco long ago occupied

Maddie Lyne

by Madeline Marsh, who died en route to a screen test in Hollywood. She is who appears first as a voice, then as a succubus, using Jan as her habitat while she reactivates her career. Imagine the sober Ruth of *Blithe Spirit* being hijacked by the poltergeist Elvira, and you'll get the idea.

But McKenna and Dexter are scarcely Noël Coward rolled into two. They are lucky in their principal actress, for Rognlie has charisma, energy and a smile so vast and expansive I worried it might end up knocking her nose and ears off her head. She is also sufficiently versatile to be furrowed and anxious one moment, and the next to wiggle and skitter like a vamp on speed. Though she has to switch from one to the other in a sudden whoosh, you are never in doubt whether she is Jan or Maddie.

Surely, though, more fun should ensue from these transformations. Rognlie's Maddie behaves badly at a fundraising party, that is important to museum-curator Nick, hailing a waiter with "Hey, blue eyes, get me a Bronx cocktail" and insulting the hostess, a sexually predatory tramp gamely

played by Lynda Baron. Later, Maddie exits precipitately from the ketchup ad in which she has got an acting job, leaving Jan to play a tomato. But neither scene generates the laughter it should, and one with even more comic potential, in which Maddie invades the frump, generates hardly any at all.

That may be because the authors concentrate more and more on what we have been told (though never adequately shown) is Jan and Nick's ailing marriage. He sleeps with Maddie and enjoys it; she feels betrayed. It is oddly akin to the situation in the musical currently at the Donmar, *Enter the Guardsman*, in which an actor seduces his own wife while disguised as an army officer. But neither there nor here do we feel the desperation or poignancy inherent in the reinvention of a spouse as a lover and marriage as an affair.

Here, we get conventional marital angst ("When's the last time we talked, really talked?") followed by a marital reconciliation of which I'll say only this. Is it easier to believe in Maddie as a ghost or Maddie as an ex-officio marriage guidance counsellor? The former, by a mile.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Beauty? It's murder

It doesn't take long to figure out that David Reeves's musical picture of *Dorian Gray* has been flung together at high speed on a budget that would flatter a shoestring. The orchestra pit is a black curtain tacked around Reeves himself servicing a battered upright piano, accompanied by a violinist and a cellist. Atmosphere is the occasional loud squirt of stage smoke. And a huge broken picture frame lying in two pieces across the stage is most of the set. The spidery result is more Jasper Johns than Oscar Wilde, with a strange old-fashioned score stretched over Wilde's familiar story.

It takes a certain ingenuity to turn a 19th-century literary masterpiece into a musical. Penny Dreadful, Mehmet Ergen's production makes it look like a piece of cake. The chief victim is Mark Hughes's infatuated Basil, the earnest artist of the famous picture that gives Dorian ageless beauty for the price of his

Dorian Arts Theatre

soul. The chief villain is Nicholas Pound as Dorian's immortal mentor Lord Henry, who works on the impressionable lad with all the charm of an upmarket hairdresser. Dorian wavers somewhat unconvincingly between them.

With his high cheekbones and footballer's curls, Marcello Walton is a handsome if not captivating Dorian. His vanity is far more convincing than his baritone. But he makes a fair fist as an innocent undone by his villainous ego. His best and most contradictory moment — the one, in fact, that starts Dorian on his fatal spiral of corruption — is when he falls for and then brutally rejects Eliza Lumley's touching working-class actress, Sybil Vane.

Events, well the songs at least, lurch from Lady Agatha's drawing room to the

cockney docks. The production, however, is perhaps too 19th-century for its own good. The novel's juicy acts of debauchery are left in the wings. As the hotch-potch chorus sing *What's The Scandal?*, Dorian manages to look as bemused as everyone else at his supposed offstage exploits.

Like a runaway tram, Reeves's score rushes to thundering piano climaxes at every melodramatic opportunity. *O God, Give Me A New Life* sings Dorian on his knees in the attic in front of the rotting painting we never actually see. He could easily be singing his first-half plea, *There's Nothing That I Would Not Give* (to stay beautiful forever). Frankly the sentiments and the solos seem indistinguishable. "The senses murdered the soul," concludes Basil. Let's just say that the soul isn't the only thing that gets murdered here.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER



Charisma, energy and a vast smile: Summer Rognlie vamps it up as Maddie, inhabiting the body of unhappy Jan

Kettle goes off the boil

SECOND

OPINION:

Bernard Levin
on the new Caryl
Churchill play

The sleeping giant wakes: it is the end of September and the plays, new and old, begin to stir seriously. We can hurry past the old ones — or at least the very old ones (remember *Cats*, all those decades ago?) — and sniff the air for new works. We take a deep breath at *Hurlyburly*, the first act being entirely composed of the f-word (I counted them — there were 67), and we turn to Caryl Churchill, who must hold the Blue Riband of numbers of plays — she comes out with some 30, and she certainly is not going to stop.

Her latest is called *Blue Heart*, though it is composed of two plays, one called *Heart's Desire*, the other *Blue Kettle*. Neither seems to connect with its title, but in these times... well.

There are two main characters, Brian and Alice, and instantly we know we are in the hands of a joker. But it is a most delightful joker, though we have to take our time in getting the idea. The words and actions are repeated again and again, which would normally have the customers fleeing for the doors, but it is not only ingenious, it is also truly funny, though slight. Mind you, if you seek meaning, you will be greatly disappointed, for this is meaningless but charming. But a word of danger — these *Godot* ideas are flimsy in the wrong hands.

And just as I was writing those words, the other half of *Blue Heart* went down the drain with a splash. The words "kettle" and "blue" were dragged in, and out, up and down, and the groans could be heard for miles. Hark:

"Blue... I've forgotten blue than I ever blue... Kettle of your life... I think I have kettle to say... my kettle knows about it... he goes round kettle women and he blue it's him, he does that... blue kettle speak my mind as you blue I blue..."

On the whole I would prefer David Rabe's *Hurlyburly* effings and blindings, and not only because of the blue rubbish. Behind *Hurlyburly* there is a true depth, and if it is plumed we can see that the swearing is nothing but a veil to cover the real agonies. But please don't offer me Caryl Churchill's kettles.

Blue Heart is continuing at the Duke of York's (071-836 5122); Hurlyburly is at Queens (071-494 5041)

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

Objects of Desire

THE MODERN STILL LIFE

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Readers of *The Times* are invited to an exclusive private view of the first comprehensive exhibition to celebrate and explore the 20th-century still life.

The evening on November 6, 1997, from 6.30-8.30pm, includes a guided tour of the exhibition and an informal reception with wine in the Hayward Gallery on the South Bank, London.

The exhibition, created by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, brings together over 160 modern masterpieces from collections worldwide. Highlights include Marcel Duchamp's *Bicycle Wheel*, Man Ray's spike-covered iron, *Gift*, Matisse's *Goldfish and Palette*, Meret Oppenheim's fur-covered teacup and saucer, *Object*, a white Lobster Telephone by Salvador Dalí, René Magritte's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Jasper Johns's *Flag*, and *Brillo Boxes* by Andy Warhol.

From Cézanne to Koons, this exhibition explores the ways in which exceptional artists and exceptional works have transformed the vision and meaning of the still life in the modern age.

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GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

ALISTAIR WHITE

Age: 16.

Profession: Jazz musician.

Why is he making a stir? His trombone playing has just won him the Royal Sun Alliance Young Jazz Musician of the Year. The youngest competitor in the prize's history, he came through regional heats to beat more than 500 older contestants. And he has just started playing with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Background: He has recently embarked on A levels in maths and music at Cardinal Newman College in Preston after getting ten A grades at GCSE, nine of them starred. "I come from a completely unmusical family. There are no musicians as far back as anyone can remember so nobody knows where I got it from. I had a couple of classical teachers but nobody taught me to play jazz. It's more a listening, feeling thing."

Why the trombone? "I always wanted to play the trumpet, but when I was eight my music class needed a trombonist and the teacher said I had the longest arms."

What's the prize worth? A week's residency at Ronnie Scott's club in London starting on October 13, and another week at the Blue Note in New York — plus £1,500 cash. "I've put the money down on a deposit on a car, providing I pass my test next year." It also got him a lot of exposure when the finals were televised in a presentation by Jools Holland.

Isn't Lancashire more George Formby than Louis Armstrong? "It's a good place for a young player to get started. I played in the Lancashire Students Jazz Orchestra and then the Wigan Youth Jazz Orchestra. Word gets around and I'm now playing in quartets and quintets as well."

Influences? "I like Seventies disco and Jamiroquai, but in the jazz field I have to say Charlie Parker and Miles Davis. They're still the best."

Ambition? "I want to move to London in a couple of years and build a reputation as a player. I'd like to go to university down there, too, but not to do music. I'd like to turn professional, but it all depends how many gigs I get."

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Charm of the voyeur

I have always been twitchy around one-man shows ever since I was trapped alone in a theatre by a Gaelic-speaking madman in a loin-cloth for three hours. Robert Young's brace of monologues are happily in a different league. Not only are they short, dark, and humorous, but they exert a snake-charmer's grip on the imagination.

The first, *Surfing*, splices together the stories of two women who discover each other on the Internet. Mabel is an elderly "balloon of depression and desire", infatuated with an artist in Soho whose nude painting of her unlocks a lifetime of repression. The artist, however, is forever with prostitutes. Vicky, aged 24 going on 12, could have been invented by Jane Horrocks. She is winned and dined by a pompous estate agent, Charles, in exchange for sex.

Bored with her nightly orgies of seafood she taps into Charles's e-mail and discovers Mabel fishing for electronic intercourse. Before the week is out they are virtual lesbians in Shanghai. For Vicky this is *Brief Encounter*. For Mabel it is the motorbike she was never allowed in her youth.

Dressed in nothing but an oatmeal shirt and white briefs, Lizzie McPhee skillfully tangles the two stories around each other. Perched on a suitcase, lowering her voice to a melancholic cun-glass drawl, she becomes upmarket Mabel. Squatting on her haunches, knees akimbo, she is gawky, comic Vicky, tipsy with self-discovery. That McPhee cannot sustain the absolute credence of either character has more to do with the schizophrenic leaps she has to make than any lack of stage craft. It is a piece that itches for a second actor.

Obsession underlines why

This is a beautifully choreographed piece of precision acting that dances on the razor's edge between laughing and love. The absence of others takes the monologue into the realm of the thriller. "She fears me, I know it," says Kemp in his urgent, virulent whisper.

Yet there is a wonderfully happy comedy about their relationship, and about the way it scrambles his wits. At one point he describes a moment of perfect happiness lying on the tiled floor like a trussed-up ham while she watches television. Highly unsettling, perhaps because it is so bleakly funny and true.

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If the pointes fit, wear them

What lured Lynn Seymour back to the stage? The right roles in the right ballets, she tells Allen Robertson

A living legend in the dance world, Lynn Seymour is, at 58, far from finished. To prove it, she is back where she belongs — on the stage in a role of her own. "It's bliss," she says. "Creating a new role is what makes me happiest. The other stuff, the *Sleeping Beauties* and *Swan Lake*, I've done like a good girl should, but the reason for doing what I do has always been new roles."

Since the late 1950s she has initiated a string of vivid characters who have now found a permanent place in the international ballet repertoire. For Kenneth MacMillan alone they include Juliet, Anastasia, the rapacious Mary Vetsera in *Mayerling* and more than a dozen others. Frederick Ashton built his last major ballet, *A Month in the Country*, around Seymour's consummate skills as an actress and, just before she abruptly retired in 1980, she played Janis Joplin for Alvin Alley. Seven years later Christopher Gable, her original Romeo and now artistic director of Northern Ballet Theatre, cast her as the pinch-souled mother of the painter L.S. Lowry in Gillian Lynne's bio-ballet *A Simple Man*.

A further decade down the line, Seymour is happily ensconced in the West End, revelling in her role as the Wicked Stepmother in Matthew Bourne's new contemporary dance take on *Cinderella*.

Bourne has catapulted the familiar fairytale into the dangerous and chaotic world of London in the Blitz, while Seymour has devised a villainess who bears an uncanny resemblance to Joan Crawford at her witchiest. A money-grubbing parvenu, she has married Cinder's ineffectual father in order to get her hands on his fortune. "The Stepmother is not a nice woman," Seymour says. "In fact, she's a murderer. She has very few redeeming features. Matthew thinks probably the only one is that she is quite a good dancer."

Seymour first got involved with Bourne's company last autumn, when she took over the part of the domineering Queen Mother in his company's record-breaking production of *Swan Lake*. When the show moved on to Los Angeles for an eight-week season this spring, she went too. "LA was a big success, but I don't much like that neck of the woods," Seymour says. "It freaks me out, actually, so it was an exercise in forbearance to be there for that length of time."

Bourne is the latest in the list of significant creative friendships that has included MacMillan, Rudolf Nureyev and the artist Andrew Logan. "I think this is Lynn's home

now," Bourne says. "As far as I'm concerned there will always be a part for Lynn if she wants one." That includes travelling to New York to play once again the Queen Mother in the Broadway transfer of *Swan Lake* early next year.

"Lynn is a joy to work with, because she gives so much," he adds. "She pours out ideas. You give her a little thing and she's away. It's wonderful how she catches on to an idea and expands on it so quickly. She's very easy to work with and the rest of the company love her because she's one of the gang. She doesn't hold herself aloof."

Far from being a prima donna, Seymour insists that any dancer is essentially powerless in shaping her career. "Dancers dance what they're told to dance," she says, "although I did actually ask Matthew if I could do *Swan Lake*. I had seen the show and had absolutely adored it. I thought, well, maybe they need a few extra old queens. So I wrote to him. I'd never done anything like that before, but in this case I guess I did actually start the ball rolling."

She believes that Bourne has a lot in common with Ashton and MacMillan. "Amazingly, they are very similar to work with. Your job is to bring into reality their visions, their dreams, their ideas. You have to give it flesh and tangibility and actuality. So the input is very personal. Somehow, together, using all the knowledge you've got, you start to get this thing real. And then, magically, there it suddenly is in front of you."

If Seymour has one drawback as an artist it is that she is very nearsighted and has to operate on the stage through what she calls "semi-blind braille". Already wearing spectacles as a tot, she has always had to memorise the stage by rote.

So why not use contact lenses? "I tried them once, but it was a disaster. Not only was I able to see the audience, I couldn't find my balance because they gave me a false sense of where the floor was, so I slipped worse than again. I found being able to see properly terribly invasive. I prefer to be in my own world, which is far better — and far safer."

At the peak of her classical career, Seymour was unrivalled, touted as one of the great dancing actresses. In recent years she has tried straight acting in films and on the stage, but says words are not really her medium. "It would be like saying to Diana Rigg: 'Hey, you're a great mover, why don't you go and do some ballet?'"

● *Cinderella* is in preview at the Piccadilly Theatre, W1 (0171-369 1794) and opens on Oct 7



Smoke with fire: Lynn Seymour draws on Joan Crawford for her role as the Wicked Stepmother in Matthew Bourne's new staging of *Cinderella*

OPERA: How will Ian Bostridge play Britten's most demonic creation? Hilary Finch finds out

Ghost of a chance for fast-rising tenor

Even Henry James declared that he had no idea whether the silent ghosts he created in *The Turn of the Screw* really existed or not. When Benjamin Britten, through his librettist Myfanwy Piper, gave Peter Quint and Miss Jessel a voice, in an opera which stands at the very centre of his output, he only spun new threads in the sticky web of possibilities and impossibilities in which every character becomes tangled, and which continues to ensnare every new director and audience of the opera.

Wilfrid Mellers once wrote that "the impact of Quint and Miss Jessel on Flora and Miles is comparable with the demonic Beethoven's assault on an 18th-century drawing-room". And the tenor charged with embodying that unquiet presence in Deborah Warner's new production of Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* for the Royal Opera is likely to be one of the most dangerously seductive of them all. Ian Bostridge, the willowy youth whose wide-eyed yet intellectually sophisticated Schubert singing scoops up record awards and fills recital halls, is to make his Royal Opera debut in one of the most baffling roles in the repertoire.

Peter Quint, in his own highly florid, exquisitely mel-

ismatic words, is "the hidden life that stirs when the candle is out". He is, irresistibly, "all things strange and bold". He is, perhaps, no more and no less than a projection of the heart of darkness within the children's Governess — within us all. He is, according to Donald Mitchell, the eminence grise of Britten studies, one and the same as the Governess. They are a symbiosis, finally musically unified in their relentless desire for control. When I spoke to Bostridge just two weeks into rehearsal, he was healthily bewildered.

"Everything's still very much in a state of flux — and I'm glad it is. The great thing about Deborah Warner is that she doesn't believe in explaining it all away. The letter kills. If you name something too closely it immediately becomes theatrically dead. The important thing is to keep all the possibilities open. What I do feel is that the children, Miles and Flora, are being totally pulled apart. It's not, as Sir Colin Davis emphasises, an opera about pederasty. But neither must we take it at face value when Miles repeats how bad he is. I think it's actually a mistake to focus so much on Miles, and minimise Flora's role. Invariably she's sung by a woman, but we've cast a ten-

year-old girl. And the scene in which she shrieks out her hatred at the Governess is just about the most harrowing point in the entire opera. It refocuses the moral viewpoint. But then, this opera is just like *Peter Grimes* in that you never really know where your sympathies are supposed to lie."

Bostridge, who already has a substantial Britten discography and has just recorded *Our Hunting Fathers*, a cycle of immense vocal difficulty and usually sung by a female voice, has been described as in the "royal line" of Britten interpreters, with an imagin-

ative response to words which comes perhaps closer than that of any other tenor to Peter Pears himself. "Well," Bostridge replies, "I'd say that Britten is very definitely in the royal line of song composers — from Schubert on!" Bostridge's way into Britten was, indirectly, through Schubert. His obsession with the singing of Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau led him to the German master's recording of Britten's Blake settings and his *Holy Sonnets* of John Donne.

"There's no doubt that Britten is the great song composer of the 20th century in terms of his response and sheer commitment to words. Very few composers have been faithful to that commitment, despite the fact that it has been song which has led the way in pushing forward the boundaries of music. Schubert's first proper post-tonal piece, after all, was *The Book of the Hanging Garden* in which the very colouring of the words pushed harmony in a new direction."

The word is of prime importance to Bostridge; so much so that it was a toss-up at one stage as to whether he would be a writer and academic, or a singer. Words may strain, crack and sometimes break under the burden, but their



Bostridge: "This is not an opera about pederasty"

In the name of the teacher

FESTIVAL: John Allison attends the annual Saito Kinen, in Japan

It was the tenth anniversary of Saito's death that inspired Ozawa, in collaboration with his colleague Kazuyoshi Akiyama, to gather up an orchestra of their mentor's former students for a Tokyo concert. The Saito Kinen Orchestra was born, but its players went back to their regular jobs in orchestras around the world. Between 1987 and 1991 they met again for three highly successful European tours, and in 1992 became both the centrepiece and *raison d'être* of the annual, ten-day summer festival Ozawa founded at Matsumoto.

Seating prices may be high, but tickets are snapped up within

hours: every year the festival is ten to 15 times oversubscribed, making even Bayreuth look deeply unpopular. The Saito Kinen Orchestra's sound, based on some of the boldest and yet most radiant string playing around, reveals a level of commitment that Ozawa finds very stimulating. "The atmosphere takes everyone back to their student days," he says. "They become newly excited by the music and stop being hardened professionals. They're happy to rehearse overtime, even in sections. Players listen to each other and, like chamber musicians, are in constant eye contact. Saito's theory was that an orchestra is made of cham-

ber groups and, although he was pedantic in the grammar of music, he was also a very expressive person. All the players understand this."

This year the centrepiece was Bach's *St Matthew Passion*. Conducting from memory, Ozawa shaped a flowing performance of romantic sweep, but also, in the best Saito tradition, one of great discipline. John Mark Ainsley's Evangelist led a classy line-up of soloists from which Thomas Quasthoff, a Jesus of imposing presence, and Christiane Oelze, a soprano soloist of heartfelt intensity, stood out. Among the other events, which included jazz by the Marcus Roberts Trio, a cultivated *Schöne Müllerin* from Wolfgang Holzmair and the children's concert that Ozawa himself always directs, Kent Nagano's appearance as the first guest conductor here was notable. He drew exciting string playing in Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony and inspiration from the local landscape for Takemitsu's *Tree Line* in a programme made for Matsumoto.

Love in a ghetto climate

In his ten years as artistic director of Northern Ballet Theatre, Christopher Gable has made it his mission to bring theatre to the forefront of the company's dance productions. His new *Giselle*, unveiled in Sheffield on Monday night, shows how far he will go to promote his cause.

Gable first staged *Giselle* for NBT in 1990. Seven years on, he is far more audacious, choosing a radical rethink that pushes the 19th-century Romantic classic into the realm of 20th-century docu-drama. His production sets the familiar story in a "war-torn urban ghetto". *Giselle* belongs to a community living under martial law; Albrecht is a soldier. Oppressed and oppressor still fall in love, but Act II is transformed into a guilt-ridden fantasy in which Albrecht confronts the horrific consequences of his flirtation.

Although we are never specifically directed to see this as a

Giselle
Lyceum, Sheffield

Fascist *Giselle*, the period is clearly the late 1930s, so parallels with Nazi persecution of the Jews are unavoidable. This gives Albrecht's dalliance with *Giselle* a more shocking and corrosive edge. It isn't just some naive peasant girl in a long-forgotten world taken in by a handsome nobleman; it is a young woman brutalised by racist repression, betrayed by a servant of Hitler.

For much of Act I you congratulate Gable on finding the perfect home for his revisionist scenario. But by Act II you realise he has dug himself into a ditch. Instead of *Wills* we have a tribe of men and women (Holocaust ghosts?), all victims of the regime that Albrecht represents and all out to get him. By diminishing the essential love story in favour of a broader political context, Gable diminishes both *Giselle* and the act of her forgiveness. Political payback is the name of the game, and there is not much poetry in that.

Gable shares choreography credits with Michael Pink, and with the ballet's original creators, Coralli and Perrot. The peasant dance has been cut; so, too, has much of the traditional mime which would serve no dramatic purpose here. Gable and Pink have been quite clever in maximising the talents of their dancers and integrating the dance itself into the narrative. But Act II lacks the power of ensemble — the night terrors — that makes the *Wills* such a formidable collective.

The dancers are uniformly good, though, and understand the importance of presentation. Jayne Regan is a lovely mover, and her *Giselle* radiates beauty despite the undernourishment of both her body and her spirit. Denis Malinkine, the handsome of Albrechts, dances very well indeed: big lines, cushioned landings, long jumps.

Lez Brotherston, the ideal dance designer, here does it again, setting the scene brilliantly but never intruding on the dance. John Pryce-Jones conducted the NBT Orchestra an impressive sound with limited resources.

DEBRA CRAINE

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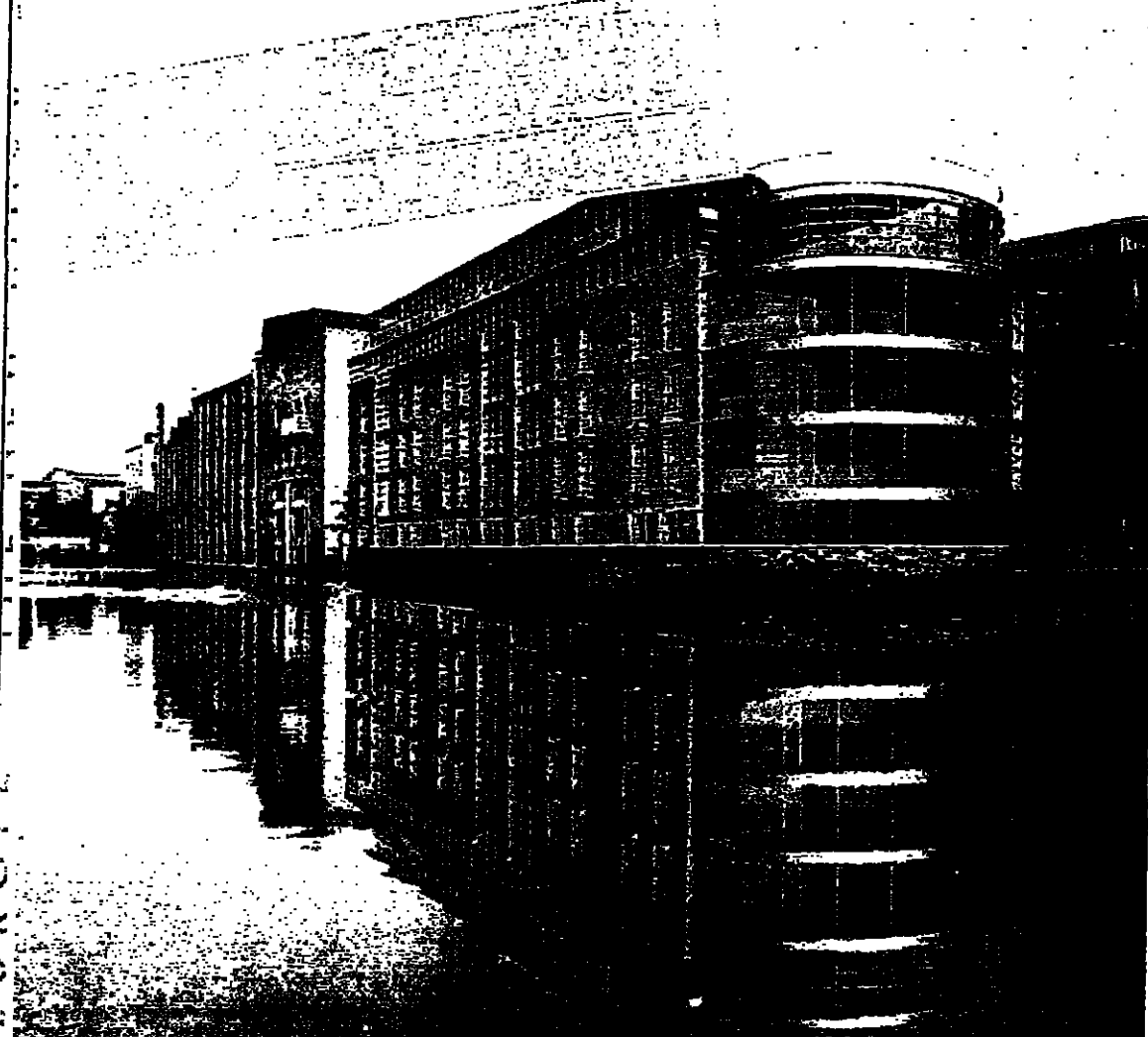
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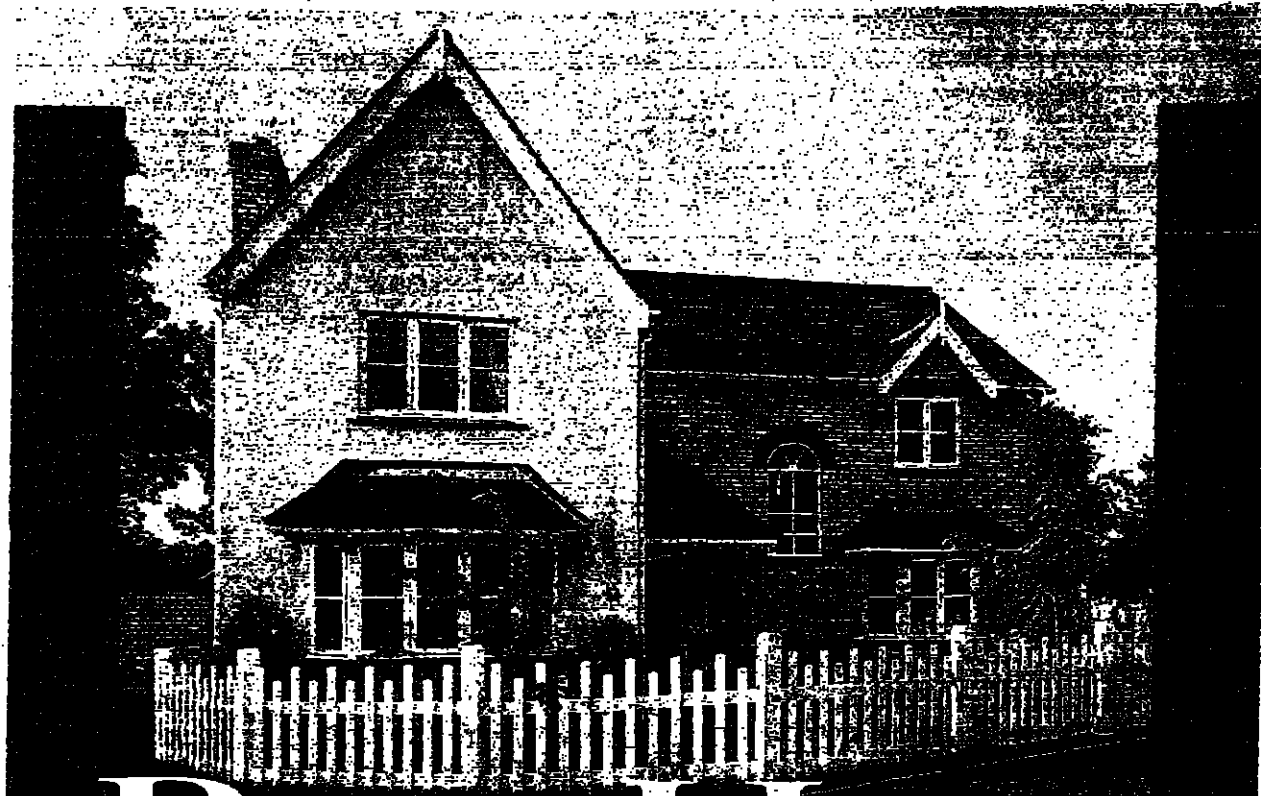
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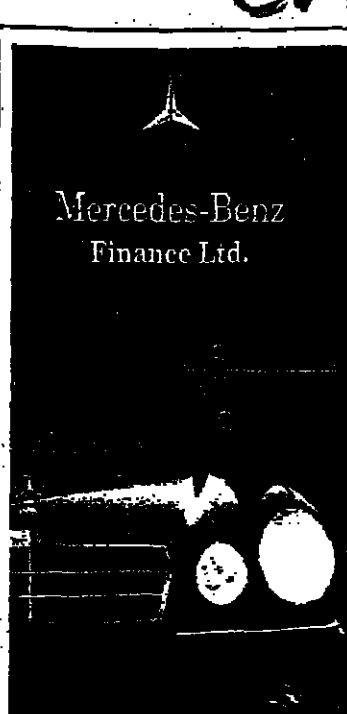
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To apply please send your CV to Claire Lane, Personnel Officer at Symbionics Ltd, 5a John's Innovation Park, Cowley Road, Cambridge CB4 4WS. E-mail: cl@sybionics.co.uk

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If you have the qualities we seek, please write for an application form and recruitment pack to Chief Executive and Director of Finance's Department, Personnel and Business Planning, Civic Centre, 44, York Street, Twickenham, Middx TW1 3BZ or telephone 0181-891-7884 (24 hour answerphone), Minicom: 0181-891-7118 or Fax 0181-891-7710. Closing date for receipt of completed applications 20th October 1997, 5.00pm, quoting ref: GR09.

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Salary will be competitive but subject to age and experience.

Applicants should write enclosing a CV to The Personnel Manager, 9 Central Business Centre, Great Central Way, London NW10 0UR or fax their details on 0181 830 2427.

PETER TRIVINON

Julie Burgin keeps a passport handy in her Hammansmith office, in London. "I'm always ready to go off to New York, Concord, or wherever," Ms Burgin says. "I'm not a 30, she is."

She is secretary to John Reid of John Reid Enterprises, which represents Elton John, Andrew Lloyd-Webber, Lionel Richie and the new R&B act Another Level among other celebrity clients in the entertainment industry.

"I've worked for John Reid for only a short time. Before that I worked for Andrew Lloyd-Webber's Really Useful Company and, before that, for Bell Communications. But in this job, I've already been to New York and to John Reid's house in the South of France. I do love the travel. It's a big perk."

STARTING today, this column will help you to sharpen your software skills by teaching you how to do those twiddly bits that will save you minutes or even hours.

Hopefully, you will learn something that makes life easier, but if you've already discovered any of them then sit back and have an extra cup of coffee on me.

For example, it can really slow you down when you have to reach for a mouse to make something bold or underline a word. The AutoCorrect feature in Word 97 makes this easy work, by allowing you to use the asterisk(*) and underscore(_) characters to do the trick. On the Tools menu, click AutoCorrect, choose the AutoFormat as you type tab, click the Bold and Underline with real formatting check box to select it.

Now, when you type *word* it will appear in bold, and underline it. This is for other uses, too. For example, if you use italics for real names change the Strong (asterisk) and Emphasis (underscore) styles and just click on Style on the Format menu.

CHRIS WARD

"I used to go to all Andrew Lloyd-Webber's shows. There's a great deal of excitement involved in working for someone with an exciting life. You find yourself living their life during the day, even if at the end of it you do go home to Fulham to do your own washing and ironing, and shopping at Sainsbury's."

Some people might object to being on call 24 hours a day, and not having an executive salary to match the executive responsibility. Ms Burgin, however, like most successful secretaries for successful people, thrives on that lifestyle — as does her boss.

"I'd never say 'But it's Saturday' to John," she says. "He's a fair man and a life saver. I think I do have more private life than most. But if John requires me to go somewhere, I'll drop everything. I might be going to America for Elton's US tour if John has to spend time there, and I'd like that. I don't suppose this job would suit someone with a partner and family."

The recent surge of interest in Elton John after he sang at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, and then released the new version of *Candle in the Wind*, has generated an enormous amount of work for Ms Burgin. "Because he performed at the funeral, people feel Elton John is the connection to Diana, but he can't be everywhere and do everything. We've been getting a huge amount of requests for Elton

John, including crazy ones for him to sing at dinner parties. But I would never say no until John has been informed of it."

Ms Burgin's job involves dealing more with people than with computers, but she is aware of the importance of knowing about the latest software. "I'm a whizz with computers. In this job, however, I spend more time on the phone. I try to keep up with technology because many people have electronic personal organisers. You also have to be able to fax mobile phones and know how to use the Internet," she says.

The qualities she thinks are necessary in her job are "common sense, organisation and discretion". A mutual respect between the boss and his secretary is also vital for making the relationship work, she feels.

"John is kind and generous, and invites me to his home to meet clients and contacts, which helps me to do my job better," she notes. "It's important to put faces to names, and, since I deal with the staff in his homes, it's nice to know who they are, too."

Unlike many secretaries for busy bosses, Ms Burgin doesn't keep Mr Reid's diary for him. "I wouldn't dream of putting anything in it," she says. "He looks after himself terribly well."



Shopping is a perk: "It's fun walking out with big bags even if they're not for you," says Julie

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BOXING: WORLD CHAMPION BELIEVES PROMOTERS ARE PLOTTING AGAINST HIM

Lewis fighting on two fronts

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN ATLANTIC CITY

LENNOX LEWIS, and certain members of his camp, fear that his American promoters might be plotting his downfall. It is to be hoped that Lewis's American trainer, Emanuel Steward, can convince Lewis that things are not quite how the British perceive them.

Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, has a theory that, because Lewis has not looked impressive in his past two contests — against Oliver McCull, who burst into tears and refused to fight on, and Henry Akinwande, who also refused to fight and was disqualified — HBO, the American television company behind Lewis, and Main Events, Lewis's American promoters, now wish to drop him.

According to Maloney, to achieve this they have manoeuvred Lewis into a defence of his World Boxing Council title here on Saturday against Andrew Golota, the rough-tough Pole who exposed Riddick Bowe, was twice disqualified for throwing low punches against the former champion, and eventually sent him into retirement.

If Golota can send Lewis into retirement as well, the two companies would have got rid of someone they perceive as a boring heavyweight who could not draw the crowds, and brought to the fore a controversial, white heavyweight champion who is as volatile as Mike Tyson. Whatever else, such a man would never be paying and always sell on pay-per-view television.

Maloney said: "HBO and Main Events would like to see Lennox get beat because his last two fights have not been stunning. Golota is the best commodity in the heavyweight division. He is white, he is Polish and he has a huge following here. He is unpredictable and, like Tyson, breaks the rules if necessary. A fight between Tyson and Golota would be mega."

Maloney's argument makes sense from a commercial point of view for the two American companies, but the conspiracy



Golota holds an open-air training session in Times Square, New York, as he prepares for his bout with Lewis

theory falls down because Lewis is, arguably, the best heavyweight in the world and too important a champion to be cast aside so casually. Indeed, on Saturday, Lewis could well underline his qualities by knocking out Golota. It is not surprising that Main Events want Golota to win, though. He is managed by the company.

Lewis said: "It would be in their best interests to see me beaten because they have

more control over Golota and they want to win. That's why they have put him in with me. It's business. They are taking a gamble because they have been the victim of bad fights."

"It seems that I have been appointed to get rid of misfits in the heavyweight division. Like McCull and Akinwande, I'll get rid of Golota as well. I've got a score to settle because he beat Bowe before I got to him. I'll take Golota out

as early as possible so he can't get to the stage where he fights dirty."

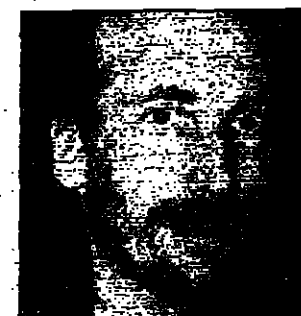
Steward put the right interpretations on the situation. After the fiasco against McCull and Akinwande, HBO did not want any more flops and stood in the way of an easy bout against Brian Nielsen, an overweight Dane. Main Events asked Steward whether Lewis would consider Golota as an opponent and Steward said there would be

no problem. It was important for Lewis to have a testing contest.

"We need Golota as bad as Golota needs us," Steward said. "You have to fight the fighter the American public want, which is the standard the world goes by. I told Lennox: 'You don't have the market value, brother. This is your chance to go out and make yourself a star in America.'"

Single-minded to a tee on collective burden

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

He struck the invisible golf ball with a loud, silent crack, perfect control of his clubhead of air. The unusual ball curved in a perfect parabola, flying up from the Nursery, over the Mound Stand, coming to rest mere inches from the unsubstantial pin, set that day just beside the popping crease in the middle of the square at Lord's cricket ground.

A sigh fills the air. "I should," Phil Edmonds, former Middlesex and — on and off — England cricketer, said to his future biographer, "have been a golfer." But even then his future biographer (for it was I) scoffed silently and said to himself: "No you shouldn't. Who would you argue with if you were on your own? Who would you blame if you were not in a team. With whom would you celebrate? You may be awkward and difficult and studiously different from the rest, but you're still a team man, through and through."

A team is the most viciously double-edged thing in sport. A team is both total protection and total exposure. In the same way, playing a game on your own, for yourself, is at the same time the bleakest and most terrifying exposure, and the most comfortable possible place to hide.

The contradiction is made crystal clear in golf. Golf is an individual game, as Edmonds so trenchantly observed. You have nobody to blame for your failures but yourself. Herein lies the exposure. But there is nobody to blame you or to be nasty to you but yourself, either. There is nobody to take responsibility for therein lies the comfort.

But as we know, once every two years golf changes its fundamental nature. Everything in the dynamic of the sport is altered. For we have the Ryder Cup, 12 rampant, self-absorbed (to use no harsher term) individuals are suddenly shoehorned into a team. Overnight, they are expected to look after each other, care for each other, win for each other. And the added weight is, as we see, crushing.

That is what makes the Ryder Cup such intriguing viewing, even to those who can't be thinking of who do not care for the game under normal circumstances.

How instructive it was to watch Tiger Woods, the prodigy, the *enfant doré*, reduced to a lost little boy. How instructive, too, to

'A team is the most viciously double-edged thing in sport'

watch Iron Man Nick Faldo — at last the nickname he deserves — inflicting and inspiring his own boy partner, Lee Westwood.

If you have a fault in temperament or technique, be very sure that the Ryder Cup will find you out. That is the beauty of the event. It is the beauty, too, of Davis Cup tennis, another competition in



Sampras: devastated

which rampant individuals are forced to turn themselves into a team. We don't appreciate the Davis Cup in this country, for the excellent reason that it is years since we had a team that was any good.

But Davis Cup tennis is about bottle. Pete Sampras lost two matches in his first Davis Cup final in 1991. "It was probably the most devastating two losses I have ever had. It was awful out there. I hope it never happens again." I went to watch the final of the Davis Cup in 1992. United States against, of all people, Switzerland. Sampras was not even trusted with a singles match. Jim Courier was and he lost in five thunderous sets to Marc Rosset. It is arguable that he has never properly recovered from this. "I have seen people rise way above their capacity," Andre Agassi said of Davis Cup tennis. "And I've seen my capacities lowered considerably."

That Davis Cup final of 1991, United States against France, turned on a moment when Guy Forget was match

point down. He produced an ace on his second serve. Now that is Davis Cup tennis. There are moments in which team delirium, the bull-baiting atmosphere traditional to the event, inspires. It almost finished Courier.

A couple of weeks ago, I talked in this space about the way the British three-day eventing team invariably makes such a cock-up of the Olympic Games. It is much the same reason, the terrible, unexpected weight of responsibility.

You can forgive yourself for an error that affects only you. But to make the mistake that costs the team their win — the muffed open goal, the dropped cross, the wayward over, the bad call, the dropped catch — these are unforgivable, at least in your eyes. Bad luck, says a team-mate. Well tried. Or perhaps jovially, never mind, we still love you. And the burden of the team's forgiveness is absolutely crushing. Because it is not team-mates who are cruel. It is sport.

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Back home, everything perks up instantly

Home, at last. Not just me — rested, refreshed and raring to spend the autumn slumped in front of the television — but the Fowler family, safely back in Walford again after the nightmare of last week's jaunt to Ireland. May none of them go anywhere again for an immensely long time.

You could tell they were pleased to be back because they were getting through the coffee at an astonishing rate. "Fancy a coffee?" asked Mark, who was keen to tell Sanjay all about Mary, his newly discovered cousin. "Got time for a coffee?" asked Pauline, who was keen to put a disapproving stamp on what Mark told Sanjay, who told Gita, who told Pat... Praise be, EastEnders (BBC1) was more or less back to normal.

As for Mary, the Fowlers' walking, talking holiday souvenir, she was losing no time in adapting to life Walford style and had already

taken a shine to Joe. He, like many a good-looking chap before him, seemed reluctant to volunteer the information that he was already spoken for and left Mary and Sarah to sort it out for themselves. "Tell you what, why don't you two go and have a coffee?" They did. Not a great success.

I say "more or less" back to normal because it could take some time for the series to recover from its disastrous outing to the Emerald Isle. I don't give a fig for the damage allegedly done to the Irish tourist trade (if they insist on subsidising *Ballykissangel*, they can hardly complain if they get bog stereotypes back in return). But I do care about the damage done to the series. Only a few weeks ago Kathy and Phil had taken it to such heights that some sort of dramatic bangover was inevitable. But who could have imagined one quite so painful?

Still, we appear back on the

right track again now. The delicious feeling of Barry is at last under way and after a quiet month Carol Jackson (Lindsay Coulson) is back on the Walford. Sonia's being bullied, Bobbie's in mortal danger and she needs police protection — but that's still no excuse to shout at Nigel.

In *Holding On* (BBC2), Tony Marchant, its writer, has been able to dispense with the "got time for a coffee" scenes. Here there are no storylines to be explained or characters to be introduced to each other. Instead, the separate stories proceed on their way, occasionally bumping into each other (subplots that pass in the night) but generally getting on with it themselves. This multi-layered structure has the advantage of being just like real life, but the disadvantage of making it extremely difficult to work out whether you like it or not. For

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

instance, like bits of a lot — but, confusingly, not necessarily the same bits every week.

Marchant could argue that this is just like real life, too, but that's a dangerous game when it's not real life but television drama you are talking about. Each week he has to ensure that the reasons to watch outnumber the reasons not to watch. Last week he got the balance brilliantly right, helped by

wonderful performances from David Morrissey as Shaun, the increasingly unimpaired taxman, and from Emily Hamilton as Tina, his enchantingly vulnerable new girlfriend.

Last night, however, the pluses and minuses were more finely balanced. Of the five stories up and running, I was still interested in Shaun and Tina (even if it was consequence time) and in Janet and Marcus (two more terrific performances from Diane Parish and Freddie Arnold-Dodoo) as they celebrated the relaunch of Massive FM in, er, unorthodox style. But I was weary of Claire (Saira Todd) and her grief (well, other people's grief can be wearying, especially when it's made up) and a little bored by Gary Ricker (Phil Daniels), who, for reasons I have never been convinced by, is the only character allowed to address the camera directly.

That made the score 2.2. All

hung on whether I cared about Hilary (Leslie Manville), the lovelorn PR woman, seducing her security guard. I didn't really, but the cheap promise of a bit of sex (the BBC trailer department is expert in such promises) just tipped the balance. Damn close-run thing, though.

Over on Channel 4, *Cutting Edge: Illegal Immigrants* was the sort of documentary that should have left the more affluent members of the metropolitan middle classes feeling distinctly nervous. In America, high-flying careers are regularly brought crashing down by revelations that a person has — quite unwittingly, of course — employed an illegal Mexican immigrant to clean or cook. This could have provided the British equivalent, designed to unnerve anyone who has ever found the perfect Polish cleaner or dream Slovak nanny.

What was delivered, however, was a disgracefully overstretched piece of work, that seemed convinced that listening to the same question being translated into Polish over and over again ("did you know you weren't allowed to work here?") and getting the same answer back ("no, I was not aware of that") constitutes good television. It does not.

In this fly-on-the-wall documentary you longed for the doc to buzz off and find something more interesting than Operation Peregrine. But, apart from touching on bogus political asylum applications, O.P. was the only choice. Immigration officers duly arrested and questioned a handful of cleaners and put some of them on the midnight flight to Warsaw. "You'll be just like any other passenger," explained a kindly officer. "Except everyone else has paid for their ticket and you're getting yours free."

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (57517)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (82074807)
- 9.05am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S142791)
- 9.30 Style Challenge (5970831)
- 9.55 Kilroy (T) (8254028)
- 10.35 Change That With Mark Curry in Cambridge (8681888)
- 11.00 News (T) Regional News and weather (7063284)
- 11.05 Labour Party Conference '97 Diana Madill and Jon Sopel with live coverage from Brighton (33157739)
- 1.00pm News (T) and weather (12361)
- 1.30 Regional News (73940159)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (74583062)
- 1.45 Neighbours (T) (71659371)
- 2.10 Quincey (T) (8688517)
- 3.00 Through the Keyhole (8371)
- 3.30 Playdays (8302197) 3.50 ChuckleVision (823333) 4.10 Get Your Own (8107082) 4.30 Out of Tune (8107082) 5.00 Newsround (T) (2471401) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (8887826)
- 5.35 Neighbours (T) (844401)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (10)
- 6.30 Regional News (62)
- 7.00 Animal People Kangaroos bounding across Australia's country roads are involved in nasty car accidents (T) (4492)
- 7.30 Tomorrow's World Philippa Forrester reports on a device which claims to protect scuba divers from sharks. Peter Snow examines a new type of grass which remains forever green — even when dead (T) (46)
- 8.00 Crime Beat Maryn Lewis on motorbikes that with advice on anti-theft measures (T) (6772)
- 8.30 The National Lottery Live Music is provided by Jimmy Ray (T) (243159)
- 8.45 Points of View Anne Robinson provides an opportunity for viewers to air their opinions (T) (259710)
- 9.00 News (T) and weather (1449)
- 9.25 National Lottery Update (794994)
- 9.30 The X-Files: Unruhe Mulder analyses a series of nightmarish images on a kidnapped woman's passport photographs, in the hope of discovering the grisly secrets of her abductor (T) (457474)
- 10.15 Chalk, Eric's world-beating skills of tact and decorum land him in a pickle when his public humiliation of an underachiever leaves him eating his words at the school parents' evening (T) (526082)
- 10.45 Blue Chips (1994) with Nick Nolte. A college basketball coach is forced to consider the future following his team's first defeat. Directed by William Friedkin (3034517) 10.45 A Touch of Class (525333) 11.15 Film: Blue Chips (355807) 2.30 Newsweek weather (874109) 2.30 Newsweek weather
- 12.30am Film: The Cave Bear (1985) Deryl Kinnear a prehistoric woman adopted by a tribe whose members become jealous of her highly developed intellect, and attempt to drive her out. Directed by Curtis Armstrong (35482)
- 2.00 Weather (T) (825733)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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BBC2

- 6.00am O U Database Developments (2274265) 6.25 Designing a Lift (2253772) 6.50 Coping with Queues (9552284)
- 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (2974474)
- 7.30 Smurfs' Adventures (4857371) 7.55 The Really Wild Show (T) (4858220) 8.20 Penny Cayton (T) (5579791) 8.25 Tales of Asop (T) (5579791) 8.35 Teletubbies (T) (9997971) 9.00 Cartoon (3886245) 9.10 What? Where? When? Why? (899710) 9.25 English Express (7434159) 9.45 Words and Pictures (8925536) 10.00 Teletubbies (T) (9997971) 10.30 Numberline (894546) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (8033604) 11.00 Around Scotland (5645772) 11.20 Geography Programme (8614975) 11.40 Revista (9629710) 11.55 Quince Minutes Plus (7788046) 12.10pm Isobel (5118420)
- 12.30 Working Lunch (13401)
- 1.00 Noddy (3271352) (T) 1.10 The Countrywide Hour (7912159) 2.10 News (T) (7764246)
- 2.15 Labour Party Conference '97 (134975) 3.55 News (T) (1200474) 4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) 4.30 Going, Going, Gone (8106333) 4.55 Esther: Day II (8025082) 5.30 Today's Day (6)
- 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (T) (612538)
- 6.45 Conference Talk (837173)
- 7.30 Conjuror Shakespeare King Lear. Featuring Celia Imrie and Kenneth Cranham (T) (88)
- 8.00 University Challenge Title holders Magdalen College, Oxford, v King's College London (T) (7642)
- 8.30 The Antiques Show Tim Wonnacott tracks down a collection of artwork capturing all the fun of the fair. Vintage gun collectors surrender their prize as new lines come into practice, and David Dickinson finds something special while searching for antique beds (T) (3449)
- 9.00 The Nazis: A Warning from History Polish survivors of the Holocaust reveal the inherently flawed political machinery of wartime Germany (T) (728223)
- 9.50 The Rugby Club New series. Bath Rugby Club prepares to go professional (T) (252791)
- 10.30 Newsnight (115081) 11.15: Over the Edge (520988) 11.45 Building Sights USA (T) (T) (77372) 12.00 Weather (8614655) 12.05am Duckman (4728314)
- 12.30 O U Seal Secrets (86395) 1.00 Seismology at Work (86855) 1.30 Seeing with Electronics (93376) 2.00 Teaching Today (86392) 2.30 The Science of the World (22570) 3.00 RCN Nursing Update MRS (48840) 3.30 Heart Health — Primary Prevention (83573)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

- 4.00pm Drive In (1978) (7302082)
- 4.30pm My Favorite Brunette (1947) (151444) 6.00pm My Man Ladd (1957) (155344) 6.30pm The Star (1954) (155344) 7.00pm The Star (1954) (155344) 7.30pm The Star (1954) (155344) 8.00pm The Star (1954) (155344) 8.30pm The Star (1954) (155344) 9.00pm The Star (1954) (155344) 9.30pm The Star (1954) (155344) 10.00pm The Star (1954) (155344) 10.30pm The Star (1954) (155344) 11.00pm The Star (1954) (155344) 11.30pm The Star (1954) (155344) 12.00pm The Star (1954) (155344) 12.30pm The Star (1954) (155344) 1.00am The Star (1954) (155344) 1.30am The Star (1954) (155344) 2.00am The Star (1954) (155344) 2.30am The Star (1954) (155344) 3.00am The Star (1954) (155344) 3.30am The Star (1954) (155344) 4.00am The Star (1954) (155344) 4.30am The Star (1954) (155344) 5.00am The Star (1954) (155344) 5.30am The Star (1954) (155344) 6.00am The Star (1954) (155344) 6.30am The Star (1954) (155344) 7.00am The Star (1954) (155344) 7.30am The Star (1954) (155344) 8.00am The Star (1954) (155344) 8.30am The Star 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